



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS' U.S. COMMEMORATIVE STAMP SERIES

- WHEREAS:** For over two centuries, African American soldiers have answered the call to duty and served the U.S. military with valor and distinction. In spite of racism and discrimination, they have served honorably and have continued to build a legacy of courage, respect and professionalism; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 1863, during the Civil War, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation allowed for one of the first Black regiments to be created - the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. African American men from as far as Canada and the Caribbeans enlisted, and through their heroic efforts in the Civil War, inspired the enlistment of over 180,000 Black men into the Union Army. Sergeant William H. Carney became the first African American recipient of the Medal of Honor for his act of bravery in saving their regiment's flag in the assault at Fort Wagner, South Carolina; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first group of African American aviators in the U.S. Army Air Forces. They garnered much success and earned eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and over 90 Distinguished Flying Crosses. The Tuskegee Airmen encouraged the eventual integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, and in 1948, three years after the war, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending segregation and establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the military; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In the last few decades, we have seen an increase of African Americans in the U.S. military and a steady rise in ranks. In 1989, U.S. Army General Colin Powell became the first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and later, the first African American U.S. Secretary of State. In 2021, U.S. Army General Lloyd James Austin III, a retired veteran, was confirmed as the first African American Secretary of Defense. As of 2019, 28.92% of enlisted women and 16.92% of enlisted men are African Americans; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Since the founding of our country, African Americans soldiers have played an important role in the defense of our nation. Time and again, they have gallantly placed themselves in danger for the protection of our freedoms despite not being fully free themselves. They have been, and continue to be, an integral part of our military; without their contributions, our forces would not have accomplished many of its missions; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is our duty to educate the public and our children about this important, but often overlooked, part of history. On July 30th, 2022, Home Base and the Red Sox Foundation will recognize the services and sacrifices of our African American Veterans. To honor them, there will be a petition for a commemorative stamp series to be issued by the U.S. Postal Services. This will be a great opportunity to highlight the contributions and achievements of our African American veterans; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council join together in support of the creation of a Commemorative Postal Stamp Series for African American Veterans that recognize and celebrate the services and sacrifices they have made towards the City of Boston and our country.