



HR0311

LRB101 12157 ALS 59754 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, It is important to remember and honor those who have served the United States of America and the State of Illinois; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Private Martin Pedee was a brave man who fought for his freedom, the freedom of others, and for his country, overcoming great prejudice and obstacles along the way; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Private Pedee was born on a plantation that stretched across the border between the two Carolinas in the mid 1840s; as a teenager, he joined the 35th United States Colored Infantry and remained in the service for another nine years, serving as one of the famous "Buffalo Soldiers" out west in the 25th, 38th, and 40th United States Infantry; and

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, Following his discharge from the service, Private Pedee came to Vermilion County and lived near Danville, where he worked as a farmer; he then moved to Catlin, where he worked as a barber, was a member of the municipal band, and served as an elected official; and

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Private Pedee was the first African-American Police Magistrate to be elected in the State of Illinois, and that election made local, State, and nationwide news; he was

20

21

1 also one of the first African-Americans to serve as a notary
2 public and justice of the peace in the State of Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, Private Pedee encountered insurmountable
4 challenges in his life, yet he rose to each one with
5 determination and dignity; he went from being born an enslaved
6 person to becoming an elected official; and

7 WHEREAS, Saturday, April 20, 2019 will be a day of
8 remembrance, inspiration, and patriotism, as a marble military
9 tombstone will be dedicated to Private Martin Pedee; and

10 WHEREAS, The Soldier's Circle at Oak Ridge Cemetery on the
11 west side of Catlin will be the site of a Dedication Ceremony,
12 presented by the Ward Hill Lamon Civil War Roundtable, the
13 Illiana Civil War Historical Society, and the Martin Pedee
14 Celebration Committee; and

15 WHEREAS, A Civil War era replica 34-star American flag will
16 be flying on the Soldier's Circle flagpole; an Honor Guard
17 consisting of Civil War Living History presenters and American
18 Legion members will fire a 21-gun salute in honor of Private
19 Pedee and another volley in honor of all soldiers buried in the
20 cemetery; and

21 WHEREAS, This is the first of several military stone

1 dedications planned by the Civil War Roundtable and Historical
2 Society for the year; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we honor and remember fallen soldier Martin Pedee for his
6 service to our country and to our State; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Private Martin Pedee as an
9 expression of our esteem and respect.