



HR0782

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The 29th United States Colored Infantry Regiment, formed on April 24, 1864, played a crucial role in the fight for the Union during the American Civil War; and

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WHEREAS, Comprised of 2,072 brave African American men from Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin, the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment stood as the largest Black Civil War regiment; and

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WHEREAS, The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment demonstrated valor and dedication in significant battles, including the Siege of Petersburg, the Battles of the Crater, Globe Tavern, Poplar Grove Church, and Boydton Plank Road, and the Appomattox Campaign; and

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WHEREAS, The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment played a pivotal role in the Juneteenth proclamation, which marked the liberation of slaves in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, a day now celebrated as Juneteenth; and

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WHEREAS, The volunteerism and sacrifice of African American soldiers such as Pvt. William H. Costley, who was the first enslaved male freed with the assistance of Abraham Lincoln, and others who joined the Union Army, exemplify the

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1 courage and determination in the fight to end slavery; and

2 WHEREAS, In April 1864, 12 African American men, some
3 formerly enslaved individuals, demonstrated their commitment
4 to freedom and justice by volunteering for the Union Army at
5 the Tazewell County Courthouse; the names and ranks of these
6 brave men are Sgt. Marshall Ashby, Cpl. William Henry Ashby,
7 Pvt. William Henry Costley, Pvt. George H. Hall, Pvt. Wilson
8 Price, Pvt. Thomas M. Tumbleson, Pvt. Nathan Ashby, Pvt.
9 William J. Ashby, Pvt. Morgan Day, Pvt. Edward J. Lewis, Pvt.
10 Thomas G. L. Shipman, and Pvt. George W. Ure; and

11 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Historical Society, Tazewell
12 County Board, and Tazewell County Clerk have sponsored efforts
13 to honor and remember the legacy of the 29th U.S. Colored
14 Infantry Regiment, and it is important to educate future
15 generations about the bravery and resilience of these men and
16 their legacy in the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice
17 for all; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we honor the memory and sacrifice of the 29th United States
21 Colored Infantry Regiment and all African American soldiers
22 who fought bravely for freedom during the Civil War; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That we commemorate their contribution to the
2 advancement of civil rights and celebrate their role in
3 shaping American history.