

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2016

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 128**

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**Introduced by ~~Senator Mendoza~~ *Senators Mendoza and Hall***

April 6, 2016

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 128—Relative to the Buffalo Soldiers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 128, as amended, Mendoza. The Buffalo Soldiers.

This measure would honor the Buffalo Soldiers for changing the face of the United States Armed Forces forever through their record of unique accomplishments.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On July 28, 1866, by an act of the United States  
2 Congress, African American men were allowed to join the  
3 post-Civil War army in special segregated units — the 9th and  
4 10th Cavalry Regiments of the United States Army; and  
5 WHEREAS, Comprised of former slaves, freemen, and black  
6 Civil War soldiers, the Buffalo Soldiers were the first African  
7 Americans to serve in the United States Army during peacetime.  
8 During the latter period of the nineteenth century, the soldiers of  
9 the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were assigned to Fort Riley,  
10 Kansas, and other areas of the Midwest, where they ~~helped~~  
11 *endeavored* to maintain order between Native Americans and the  
12 ~~settlers~~, *settlers arriving in those areas*, built forts and roads,  
13 patrolled borders, and protected mail coaches and railroad  
14 construction crews; and

1 WHEREAS, Out of respect for their courage and fighting spirit,  
2 as well as for ~~their dark curly~~ *the dark curly appearance of their*  
3 hair and the thick coats made from buffalo hide that ~~they these~~  
4 *soldiers* wore during winter, the Native Americans of the  
5 Midwestern plains honored the ~~soldiers~~ *members* of the 9th and  
6 10th Cavalry Regiments with the nickname of “Buffalo Soldiers”;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, When the Indian Wars ended in the 1890s, the  
9 Buffalo Soldiers went on to fight in Cuba ~~in~~ *during* the 1898  
10 Spanish-American War and *thereafter* acted as rangers in Yosemite  
11 and Sequoia ~~national parks;~~ *National Parks;* and

12 WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers of the regular African  
13 American army regiments were among the first to serve as park  
14 rangers in the newly created National Park Service; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 500 Buffalo Soldiers from the 9th,  
16 10th, ~~24th~~ *24th*, and 25th ~~regiments~~ *Regiments* served in Yosemite  
17 and nearby Sequoia ~~national parks;~~ *National Parks*, with duties  
18 *ranging* from evicting poachers and timber thieves to extinguishing  
19 forest fires; and

20 WHEREAS, The accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers as  
21 park rangers include building the first trail to the top of Mount  
22 Whitney in Sequoia National Park, building the first arboretum in  
23 Yosemite National Park, and clearing miles of trails and building  
24 roads into the national parks for visitor enjoyment; and

25 WHEREAS, *Colonel* Charles Young, the third African American  
26 graduate of West Point, served as acting military superintendent  
27 of Sequoia National Park in 1903; and

28 WHEREAS, ~~Even though~~ *Despite* the Buffalo Soldiers ~~wore~~  
29 *wearing* the uniform of the United States Army, ~~the performance~~  
30 ~~of performing~~ their duties presented challenges *to overcome* due  
31 to racial prejudice. Buffalo ~~soldiers~~ *Soldiers* serving in Yosemite  
32 and Sequoia ~~national parks~~ *National Parks* had to fulfill their duties  
33 using *perseverance and* diplomacy; and

34 WHEREAS, During World War II, members of the Buffalo  
35 Soldiers branched out and formed into famous units, including the  
36 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions, the famed Tuskegee Airmen that  
37 included the 99th ~~Fighter (Pursuit) Group;~~ *Pursuit Squadron* the  
38 *larger* 332nd Fighter “Red Tails” Group, ~~and~~ the 761st Tank  
39 Battalion of the ~~third Army;~~ *Third Army, plus nearly the entire*  
40 *92nd Infantry Division;* and

1 WHEREAS, Due to ~~an executive order~~ *Executive Order 9981*  
2 issued in 1948 by President Harry Truman eliminating racial  
3 segregation and discrimination in the United States Armed Forces,  
4 the last all-black units disbanded during the first half of the 1950s,  
5 and, in 2005, the nation's oldest living Buffalo Soldier, *First*  
6 *Sergeant* Mark Matthews, passed away in Washington, D.C., at  
7 111 years of age; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature honors the Buffalo  
10 Soldiers for changing the face of the United States Armed Forces  
11 forever through their record of unique accomplishments, which  
12 testify to their skill, discipline, integrity, and heroism, and  
13 recognizes and thanks their families and descendants for sharing  
14 an inspiring legacy that speaks to the sense of excellence, potential,  
15 and patriotism shared by all Americans; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
17 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.