

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 139**  
**Committee Substitute Favorable 2/20/01**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 15, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS OF THE  
2 FRONTIER.

3       Whereas, more than 180,000 African-Americans served in the Union Army  
4 during the Civil War; and

5       Whereas, in 1866, Congress enacted legislation that established two cavalry  
6 and four infantry regiments whose enlisted members were to be composed of  
7 African-Americans; and

8       Whereas, the two cavalries and four regiments were later consolidated into  
9 the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalries; and

10       Whereas, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalries served in the Native American campaigns  
11 in the West, fought in the Spanish American War, saw tours of duty in the Philippine  
12 Islands, enforced neutrality laws along the United States' border with Mexico, protected  
13 mail and travel routes, erected hundreds of miles of telegraph lines, explored and  
14 mapped terrain in the Southwest, built and repaired frontier outposts and roads,  
15 protected the crews who built the railroads, and enforced law and order; and

16       Whereas, these African-American soldiers were nicknamed "Buffalo  
17 Soldiers" by the Comanche because the soldiers' fierce fighting spirit and dogged trail  
18 skills reminded the Comanche of the rugged and revered buffalo; and

19       Whereas, Buffalo Soldiers earned 25 Medals of Honor, also referred to as the  
20 Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest distinction a soldier can earn for valor on  
21 the battlefield; and

22       Whereas, during peacetime, from 1920 through 1941, Buffalo Soldiers  
23 formed efficient horse and marksmanship units; and

24       Whereas, as the United States entered World War II, new wartime technology  
25 and the gradual desegregation of the military eventually brought an end to the 9<sup>th</sup> and  
26 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalries; and

27       Whereas, the United States owes a great debt of gratitude to the bravery and  
28 sacrifice of the Buffalo Soldiers; Now, therefore,

29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

1           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to pay tribute to the Buffalo  
2 Soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalries who gave their lives while rendering service to our  
3 country.

4           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly encourages the citizens of this State to  
5 remember these heroic soldiers for their role in helping to shape our country.

6           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.