

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.125

Reps. Alexander, Lightner, Breen, Clemente, Garza, Haadsma, Morse, Sabo, Sneller, Thanedar, Weiss, Yaroch and Young offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare June 9, 2021, as 102nd United States  
2       Colored Troops Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, The 102nd United States Colored Troops honorably and  
4       courageously served the United States and the state of Michigan  
5       during the Civil War; and

6       Whereas, The 102nd United States Colored Troops was Michigan's  
7       only black regiment in the war. Many of its soldiers were former  
8       slaves who had escaped to freedom; and

9       Whereas, The unit was formed in 1863 as the First Michigan  
10      Colored Infantry Regiment. Although Michigan's white regiments  
11      retained their state designation, the First Michigan Colored

1 Infantry was renamed the 102nd United States Colored Troops when it  
2 began federal service in 1864; and

3       Whereas, The men of the 102nd United States Colored Troops and  
4 other black regiments served nobly despite the disparate treatment  
5 they received compared to white regiments. White soldiers were  
6 provided with enlistment bonuses, higher pay, and better equipment,  
7 while white officers were appointed to command black units; and

8       Whereas, Black regiments were generally assigned non-combat  
9 duties, such as the construction of fortifications or the  
10 destruction of Confederate railroads, but the 102nd United States  
11 Colored Troops also fought bravely in battle when opportunities  
12 arose; and

13       Whereas, The soldiers of the 102nd United States Colored  
14 Troops put their lives on the line to save the Union, an effort  
15 that ushered in the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the  
16 United States Constitution and the abolition of legalized slavery  
17 across the nation; and

18       Whereas, Michigan's Governor and Legislature unanimously  
19 recognized the 102nd United States Colored Troops with the  
20 enactment of Public Act 494 of 2014, which designated the portion  
21 of Interstate 375 within Wayne County as the "102nd United States  
22 Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) Memorial Highway" in honor of the  
23 regiment; and

24       Whereas, The state of Michigan preserves battle flags carried  
25 by Michigan troops, including flags used by the 102nd United States  
26 Colored Troops. Flag replicas are displayed in the state Capitol  
27 rotunda; and

28       Whereas, A prominent young citizen of Jackson, Michigan, has  
29 led fundraising efforts for the installation of signs denoting the

1 102nd United States Colored Troops Memorial Highway, as well as for  
2 conservation and a replica of a battle flag presented to the 102nd  
3 United States Colored Troops in 1864 by the Colored Ladies Aid  
4 Society of Detroit; and

5       Whereas, The heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers of the  
6 102nd United States Colored Troops are worthy of our deepest  
7 gratitude and emulation; now, therefore, be it

8       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
9 this legislative body declare June 9, 2021, as 102nd United States  
10 Colored Troops Day in the state of Michigan.