

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Reps. Alexander and Lightner 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  
12 Infantry was renamed the 102nd United States Colored Troops when it  
13 began federal service in 1864; and

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

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

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

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

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

26           Whereas, A prominent young citizen of Jackson, Michigan, has  
27 led fundraising efforts for the installation of signs denoting the  
28 102nd United States Colored Troops Memorial Highway, as well as for  
29 conservation and a replica of a battle flag presented to the 102nd

1 United States Colored Troops in 1864 by the Colored Ladies Aid  
2 Society of Detroit; and

3       Whereas, The heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers of the  
4 102nd United States Colored Troops are worthy of our deepest  
5 gratitude and emulation; now, therefore, be it

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