

WHEREAS, It is reported that the Native American tribes of the West both feared and respected the Black soldiers and named them "Buffalo Soldiers" because their hair and fierce fighting spirit reminded them of the buffalo, for which the Native Americans had great reverence; and

WHEREAS, These Buffalo Soldiers had a far lower desertion rate and far lower rate of alcoholism than other soldiers during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers of the Old West earned 25 Medals of Honor, the highest distinction a soldier may earn for battlefield valor; and

WHEREAS, Black soldiers who fought in World War I were highly decorated by the French for their heroic battlefield deeds, but not until 70 years after the War ended did a Black soldier, Cpl. Freddie Stowers posthumously receive the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Although more than one million Black soldiers were involved in World War II, of which 50,000 saw combat, not until 1997 did seven (six posthumously) receive the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo became the mascot of the segregated troops during World War II; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly acknowledges the significant contributions and achievements of the Black soldier in serving in every major American military conflict; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland hereby declares ~~February 20, 1998, and every February 20 hereafter,~~ every February 20 to be "Buffalo Soldier Day" in Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed May 21, 1998.

Joint Resolution No. 7

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 13)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Senator John A. Cade Memorial Highway

FOR the purpose of dedicating the Maryland portion of Interstate Route 97 in memory of the late Senator John A. Cade; and requesting the State Highway Administration to take all necessary steps, in consultation with appropriate federal highway officials, to place a sign or other appropriate memorial