



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NORTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERAN LINEAGE DAY

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, the Bureau of Colored Troops was created by the United States War Department via General Order Number 143; its purpose was to handle “all matters relating to the organization of colored troops”; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, officially ending segregation as a policy in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has had a strong relationship with the United States military for many years, and much of African American veteran lineage can be traced through its history; and

WHEREAS, the first African American recruits to serve in the United States Marine Corps were trained at Montford Point, North Carolina; between 1942 and 1949, 20,000 troops were trained there, and in 2012 these pioneering individuals received the Congressional Gold Medal for serving their country with honor; and

WHEREAS, Private Luke Martin from New Bern, North Carolina served in the 1st North Carolina Colored Infantry and was one of the first men to enlist in the Colored Troops in May 1863; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Millie Dunn Veasey answered the call in 1942, volunteering for the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, and was deployed overseas to the European Theater during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Private First-Class Elizabeth Barker-Johnson served in the 6888th Central Postal Battalion of the Women’s Army Corps as a member of the all-African American female unit responsible for ensuring communications of soldiers to and from the battle front; and

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice these brave individuals gave to our country has impacted the generations that have followed them; they remain examples of the values and principles we hold dear as Americans, and the State of North Carolina is proud to recognize them as our own;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 13, 2020, as “**NORTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERAN LINEAGE DAY**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.