

1 **House Resolution Regarding the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Sandra Hollins

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This resolution promotes the establishment of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This resolution:

- 7 ▶ highlights the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers in Utah's history;
- 8 ▶ promotes the establishment of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail (trail);
- 9 ▶ proposes stakeholder involvement in the creation of the trail;
- 10 ▶ recognizes informational exhibits along the trail to educate the public on the history of the
- 11 Buffalo Soldiers; and
- 12 ▶ commits to preserving the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

18 WHEREAS, on July 28, 1866, the United States Congress established the first all-Black
19 peacetime regiments in the United States Army;

20 WHEREAS, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry Regiments
21 became known as the "Buffalo Soldier" regiments;

22 WHEREAS, these regiments included veterans of the United States Colored Troops and
23 formerly enslaved men, who served with extraordinary dedication despite facing significant
24 barriers;

25 WHEREAS, approximately 25% of the Buffalo Soldiers served in the Utah Territory,
26 playing a pivotal role in safeguarding settlers, protecting railroads and banks, maintaining
27 order, and constructing infrastructure such as telegraph lines and roads across the state;

28 WHEREAS, the 9th Cavalry and 24th Infantry stationed at Fort Duchesne and Fort
29 Douglas, respectively, contributed significantly to Utah's development by building essential
30

32 infrastructure;

33 WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers policed Native Nation reservations and protected
34 communities in Vernal, Price, Helper, Gates Canyon, and Moab;

35 WHEREAS, militarily, the Buffalo Soldiers participated in the United States Army
36 combined military exercises in Strawberry Valley;

37 WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers acted as security patrols from the Uintah Basin to
38 Colorado during these exercises;

39 WHEREAS, during the Battle of San Juan Hill, 24th Infantrymen raised the American
40 battle flag, symbolizing their service, loyalty, and patriotism to the United States of America;

41 WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers contributed greatly to the history of the state of Utah; and

42 WHEREAS, establishing the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail will preserve the history of
43 these brave soldiers, educate the public about their struggles and triumphs, and inspire future
44 generations to value the rich diversity of Utah's heritage:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the state of
46 Utah promotes the official establishment of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives proposes the Buffalo
48 Soldier Heritage Trail to include the following locations of historical significance in Utah:

- 49 •Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City;
- 50 •Strawberry Valley in the Uintah Basin;
- 51 •Fort Duchesne in Duchesne;
- 52 •Uintah County Heritage Center and Museum in Vernal;
- 53 •Price;
- 54 •Helper;
- 55 •Gates Canyon;
- 56 •Nine Mile Canyon;
- 57 •Moab; and
- 58 •The Carter Military Road.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives proposes involving
60 stakeholders such as the Sema Hadithi African American Heritage and Culture Foundation, the
61 State Historic Preservation Office, Utah Cultural Site Stewardship, the United States Bureau of
62 Land Management, the United States Forestry Service, the University of Utah American West
63 Center, the Uintah County Heritage Center and Museum, and the Fort Douglas Military
64 Museum in establishing the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives recognizes that the

66 Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail may feature traveling exhibitions, waysides, online resources,
67 and events to educate Utah citizens and showcase the unique history of military service and
68 excellence, highlighting the outsized role of Buffalo Soldiers in the state's development and the
69 soldiers' broader contributions to the American west.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives calls upon state and
71 municipal agencies, corporate sponsors, and private donors to support this initiative through
72 funding, resources, and collaborative efforts to ensure the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail's
73 success and sustainability.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives commits to preserving
75 the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and their invaluable contributions to the state of Utah and
76 the United States of America.