

2013-J4473

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the members of the 26th United States Colored Troop during the observance of the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial, recognizing their notable contributions to the citizens of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to proudly call attention to those esteemed organizations and individuals of the State of New York who dedicate their time and energies to educating its citizens on the history of our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the members of the 26th United States Colored Troop (USCT) during the observance of the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial, recognizing their notable contributions to the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The 26th USCT is a Civil War Historical Interpreters group based in the New York City area that is active in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania regions; and

WHEREAS, The 26th USCT provides educational and cultural enrichment programs, holds demonstrations, and speaks at living history events, as well as in classrooms, museums, and heritage sites; furthermore the group conducts historical battle reenactments of the history of the 20th, 26th, and 31st New York Regimental United States Colored Troops; and

WHEREAS, Over 4,000 free African Americans of three regiments were raised in New York Harbor in the icy waters of the East River; they were part of more than 200,000 USCT organized as reinforcement; and

WHEREAS, These free men were both inspired and encouraged by Frederick Douglas and Martin Delany; they left their trades, their other professions, their families and loved ones to join the Federal Army to

fight to end slavery and save the Union; and

WHEREAS, The training bases were located at Camp Rikers, and Hart Islands (the latter also known as Potter's Field); the Brooklyn Zouaves were among the others who were trained on these islands on the East River; and

WHEREAS, The New York USCT drew enlistees from all over, including countries other than the United States, such as Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Barbados, Chile, Canada, and Cape Verde, as well as Native Americans from Long Island; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and applaud those extraordinary groups of individuals who contribute so much to the educational history of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the members of the 26th United States Colored Troop during the observance of the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial, recognizing their notable contributions to the citizens of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 26th United States Colored Troop.