SLS 24RS-4325 **ORIGINAL**

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes June 7th as the Battle of Milliken's Bend Day in Madison Parish.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize June 7th as the Battle of Milliken's Bend Day in Madison Parish.

WHEREAS, in 1863, Milliken's Bend was a small community located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, approximately fifteen miles above Vicksburg, Mississippi, near the border of Madison and Carroll Parishes (now East Carroll Parish); and

WHEREAS, the area was predominantly agricultural, with cotton and corn as the primary crops, cultivated by hundreds of enslaved individuals who composed between 75% and 90% of the population in this region of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate cavalry launched an attack on a Union encampment along the Mississippi River at Milliken's Bend under the command of Colonel Hermann Lieb; and

WHEREAS, the Union forces included an infantry brigade of African American troops, consisting of the 9th, 11th, and 13th Louisiana regiments, the 1st Mississippi regiment, and the 23rd Iowa Infantry; and

WHEREAS, the battle of Milliken's Bend was one of the earliest engagements in the Civil War where African American troops fought, with the majority of Union forces being composed of black troops, many of whom were formerly enslaved and scarcely trained; and

WHEREAS, the African American soldiers fought with exceptional courage and

tenacity, setting a powerful example that was used by Union recruiters to encourage other African Americans, both free and formerly enslaved, to join the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, the success of the African American troops had a profound impact on Union and Confederate officers, demonstrating the capability and bravery of Black soldiers fighting for their freedom; and

WHEREAS, Major General Ulysses S. Grant officially praised the African American soldiers for their valor and success, leading to the enlistment of thousands more African Americans into newly-formed regiments; and

WHEREAS, the gallantry and determination of the African American soldiers at Milliken's Bend encouraged enslaved individuals to strive to attain their freedom; and

WHEREAS, the huge influx in infantry brigades of African American troops came at a time when Confederate troop strength was rapidly decreasing due to casualties, and helped to ensure total Federal victory in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the Civil War in 1865, nearly 180,000 African American men served as soldiers in the United States Army, with close to 10,000 dying in battle and another 30,000 succumbing to illness or infection.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize June 7th as the Battle of Milliken's Bend Day in Madison Parish, acknowledges the historical impact of the battle in shaping the course of the Civil War, and pays tribute to the legacy of the courageous soldiers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Alvin Bagby, founder of the Madison Parish African American Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

SCR 77 Original 2024 Regular Session Jackson-Andrews

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