



**NEWS RELEASE**  
Nevada Department of Veterans Services  
"SERVING NEVADA'S HEROES"

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**For Immediate Release**  
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**Second Annual Buffalo Soldiers Day in Nevada**  
**Honoring Nevada's African American Veterans**

(Las Vegas, Nev.) – Today, the Second Annual Buffalo Soldiers Day in Nevada was celebrated at an event hosted by the Nevada Department of Veterans Services (NDVS) honoring Nevada's African American veterans and the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers.

In 2019, to commemorate and honor African Americans military service in every American war, the Nevada State Legislature unanimously passed, and Governor Steve Sisolak signed, Senate Bill 336 (SB 336) designating July 28 as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State of Nevada. Today, Governor Sisolak also signed a proclamation designating today, July 28, 2020, as Buffalo Soldiers Day.

"The Buffalo Soldiers have long deserved to be recognized for the contributions they have made to this country and to our State. That is why it was my honor to co-sponsor a bill last session that created the nation's first Buffalo Soldiers Day," said Nevada State Senator Dallas Harris, co-sponsor of SB 336. "Buffalo Soldiers provide a timely example of true patriotism and sacrifice and I am grateful to the Nevada Department of Veteran Services for honoring their service."

Nevada's African American veterans were recognized at today's event with a proclamation and a calendar commemorating their service. State legislators, dignitaries, honored veterans and the Southern Nevada Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association attended. The event was held with a limited number of attendees, along with social distancing and face coverings required for those who did attend, following all COVID-19 precautions and protocols.

"NDVS is proud to have this opportunity to salute the courageous African American warriors who served with honor, often while struggling against racism, bigotry, and discrimination," said NDVS Director Kat Miller. "The Buffalo Soldiers' important role in American history is often overlooked. Today, we highlight their contributions while celebrating the service of the veterans who carry on their legacy; the African American Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Women, and members of the Coast Guard who continue to serve with distinction."

On July 28, 1866, after the end of the Civil War, Congress enacted legislation allowing African American men to serve in segregated units in the United States Army. These units consisted of former slaves and African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. These soldiers were nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers" by the Native Americans

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against whom they fought, because of their reputation for toughness and bravery in battle, and the buffalo fur coats they wore in the winter.

Twenty-three Buffalo Soldiers received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Besides their impressive military contributions, the Buffalo Soldiers also had a significant role in the expansion of the West by escorting settlers, cattle herds and railroad crews, exploring and mapping vast areas and stringing hundreds of miles of telegraph lines. Buffalo Soldiers were some of the first park rangers in the national parks of the Sierra Nevada, where they protected the parks from illegal grazing, poaching, timber thieves and forest fires, while helping build roads and trails.

Please visit the NDVS Buffalo Soldiers Day web page for additional information:  
<https://veterans.nv.gov/buffalo-soldiers-day-in-nevada/>

NDVS is dedicated to helping Nevada veterans get the services, benefits and quality of life they deserve. In addition to offering benefits counseling and assistance that includes filing VA claims at no cost, NDVS operates the Northern and Southern Nevada State Veterans Homes and Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. For more information, please visit [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov).

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