

SENATE BILL NO. 336—SENATORS D. HARRIS, SPEARMAN;
CANNIZZARO, DONDERO LOOP, OHRENSCHALL AND
SCHEIBLE

MARCH 18, 2019

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN THOMPSON, MONROE-MORENO,
TORRES, ASSEFA, FRIERSON; COHEN, FLORES, MCCURDY,
MILLER, NEAL, PETERS AND WATTS

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Requires the Governor to annually proclaim
Juneteenth Day as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State
of Nevada. (BDR 19-791)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to days of observance; requiring the Governor
annually to proclaim Juneteenth Day to be “Buffalo
Soldiers Day” in Nevada; and providing other matters
properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law sets forth certain days of observance in this State to commemorate
2 certain persons or occasions or to publicize information regarding certain important
3 topics. (NRS 236.018-236.085) Under existing law, June 19 is required to be
4 annually proclaimed by the Governor to be “Juneteenth Day” in Nevada to
5 commemorate the abolition of slavery in the United States. (NRS 236.033) This bill
6 requires the Governor to also annually proclaim June 19 to be “Buffalo Soldiers
7 Day” in the State of Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, On July 28, 1866, after the end of the Civil War,
2 Congress enacted legislation that allowed African-American men to
3 serve in six segregated units in the United States Army during
4 peacetime; and



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WHEREAS, These new units, which consisted of former slaves and African-American soldiers that fought in the Civil War, were the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Infantry, which were later reorganized as the 24th and 25th Infantry; and

WHEREAS, These soldiers were nicknamed Buffalo Soldiers by the Native Americans against whom they fought because of their reputation for toughness and bravery in battle and the buffalo fur coats that they wore in the winter; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the era of the Indian Wars, Buffalo Soldiers were posted from Montana in the Northwest to Texas, New Mexico and Arizona in the Southwest, making up approximately 20 percent of the United States Cavalry troops; and

WHEREAS, 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 of the Southwest and stringing hundreds of miles of telegraph lines; and

WHEREAS, The 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 and helped build roads and trails in the parks for the enjoyment of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers also served courageously during World War I and World War II; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans have fought with distinction in all of this country's military engagements and 23 Buffalo Soldiers received the Congressional Medal of Honor, which is the highest military distinction awarded in the name of Congress to members of the armed forces for bravery and service; and

WHEREAS, It is important to honor the dedication and sacrifices of the Buffalo Soldiers, recognize the contributions that they have made to the State of Nevada and to the United States and preserve their legacy; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 236 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Governor shall annually proclaim June 19 to be "Buffalo Soldiers Day" in the State of Nevada.

2. The proclamation must call upon the news media, educators, business and labor leaders and appropriate governmental officers to bring to the attention of Nevada residents



1 *the important contributions Buffalo Soldiers made to the State of*
2 *Nevada and the United States.*

3 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

