

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 23-30

PATRON: Penny Gross, Victor Angry
DATE: May 25, 2023

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF E.O. 9981

WHEREAS in 2022, the Northern Virginia was declared a Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities for conducting listening sessions and implementing resulting actions to create a more equitable place for all service members and their families to call home;

WHEREAS in 1940, the U.S. population was approximately 131 million, 10% of which was African American and during World War II, the Army had become the nation's largest minority employer. Generations of African Americans selflessly served our Nation with the knowledge that they were fighting abroad for many of the freedoms that they were frequently denied here at home;

WHEREAS during World War II, President Roosevelt responded to complaints about discrimination at home against African Americans, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Executive Secretary Walter White assisted labor leader A. Philip Randolph in pressing for a Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC);

WHEREAS on June 25, 1941, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, which banned "discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin." At the same time, the FEPC was established to help enforce the order;

WHEREAS in December 1946, after meeting with NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White and other leaders of the NAACP, and a month after the jury acquitted the accused in the arrest, beating and blinding of African American Sergeant Isaac Woodard, President Truman issued Executive Order 9808: Establishing the President's Committee Civil Rights, a 15-member, interracial group to strengthen, improve, and safeguard the civil rights of all Americans at the local, State and Federal level;

WHEREAS on July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9980, establishing Regulations Governing Fair Employment Practices with the Federal Establishment;

WHEREAS on July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 stating that "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." Executive Order 9981 also established the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services to examine and improve military rules, procedures, and practices to integrate the segregated military;

WHEREAS The President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services certified the services integration plans and codified the founding ideals of a fully integrated Armed Forces in the Freedom to Serve Report on 22 May 1950;

WHEREAS today the improved equality of opportunity and treatment in the military allows recruitment and retention of the most talented Americans to support and defend our constitution with an Armed Forces more representative of the country it serves;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission hereby honors and recognizes the Americans who continue to break barriers to equal opportunity in the Armed Forces, securing all qualified Americans the Freedom to Serve.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on May 25, 2023.


ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER