2005 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 5

1   **Relating to:** Black History Month and honoring Company F of the 29th USCT.

2   Whereas, February is Black History Month, giving all citizens an opportunity

3   to recognize and celebrate the contributions African–Americans have made to

4   Wisconsin, the United States, and the world; and

5   Whereas, during the Civil War a substitution and bounty system was

6   established, allowing states to hire nonresidents and substitutes to meet their draft

7   quotas for soldiers in the Union Army; and

8   Whereas, hundreds of African–Americans, including freemen and escaped

9   slaves, were hired as substitutes and took the place of Wisconsin residents in combat,

10   despite the fact that many of these African–Americans had never set foot in the state

11   of Wisconsin; and

12   Whereas, many of these African–American troops substituting for Wisconsin

13   residents served in Company F of the 29th Infantry of U.S. Colored Troops, 9th Army

14   Corps, 4th Division, in the 2nd Brigade in the Army of the Potomac; and

1   Whereas, the men of Company F of the 29th USCT served with distinction and

2   valor on behalf of Wisconsin, seeing action in the Battle of the Crater, the Petersburg

3   Campaign, the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, the Richmond Campaign, the

4   Appomattox Campaign, and the Rio Grande Campaign; and

5   Whereas, after the Civil War a small number of the surviving members of the

6   29th USCT returned without fanfare to live and work the remainder of their lives in

7   Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

8   ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** as part of Black History Month, the members

9   of the Wisconsin assembly salute the service of the men of Company F, 29th USCT,

10   who placed themselves in harm's way in the cause of freedom; and, be it further

11   ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin assembly honor the memory of

12   those African–American troops who laid down their lives as substitutes for

13   Wisconsin residents.

14   **(END)**