



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 38

March 13, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives TURNER, WILLIAMS, MUSSER, SCHNEIDER, ALBERS, BLACK, BOCK, BOYLE, DOBYNS, DUFF, GARD, GOETSCH, GREEN, GRONEMUS, GROTHMAN, HANSON, HASENOHRL, KREUSER, LADWIG, LAZICH, J. LEHMAN, LINTON, LORGE, NASS, NOTESTEIN, OWENS, PLOUFF, R. POTTER, RILEY, ROBSON, RYBA, STASKUNAS, VANDER LOOP, R. YOUNG and KELSO, cosponsored by Senators MOEN, BRESKE, BUETTNER, CLAUSING, COWLES, DRZEWIECKI, MOORE, PLACHE, WELCH, WINEKE and WIRCH, by request of The National Association for Black Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** commending African-American veterans.

2 Whereas, former Lieutenant Vernon Baker, now a resident of northern Idaho,
3 is the first and only living African-American veteran of World War II to receive our
4 nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor; and

5 Whereas, 6 other African-American veterans of World War II have now also
6 been awarded posthumous Medals of Honor; and

7 Whereas, although 1,700,000 African-Americans served in World War II,
8 during that war none received one of the 432 Medals of Honor awarded for heroism
9 in combat; and

10 Whereas, military historians have concluded that racist attitudes and the
11 segregation of African-Americans during World War II were the reasons no Medals
12 of Honor were given earlier to African-American heroes; and

13 Whereas, during World War II Lt. Vernon Baker was a member of the U.S.
14 army's renowned 92nd Infantry, called the Buffalo Division, which was composed
15 entirely of African-Americans; and

16 Whereas, while stationed in Italy Lt. Vernon Baker and his platoon led the fight
17 to capture Castle Aghinolfi, a German stronghold, on April 5, 1945; and

