

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.28

Senators Hollier, Alexander, Ananich, Chang, Geiss, Bullock, McCann, Brinks, Polehanki, McMorrow, Irwin, McBroom, Wojno, Moss, Hertel, Santana, Schmidt, Bayer, Stamas and Bumstead offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to express support for a bi-partisan
2 discussion on renaming military installations currently named after
3 Confederate generals.

4 Whereas, The United States Civil War pitted northern states
5 against southern states over a range of issues, but the primary
6 division arose due to differences in ideologies regarding state's
7 rights and slavery. The Confederate Army was created to fight the
8 United States government and preserve southern states rights to own
9 human beings as property. Several military officers resigned their

1 U.S. Army commissions to join the Confederacy; and

2 Whereas, Michigan had a strong presence in the Civil War and
3 significantly contributed to the success of the Union Army. More
4 than 90,000 Michigan men and 30 regiments of infantry served in the
5 Union Army, engaging Confederate soldiers on more than 800
6 occasions; and

7 Whereas, Ten federal military installations in the U.S. are
8 named after Confederate generals, men who led the rebellion against
9 the United States government. The choice of these generals does not
10 reflect military prowess, principles, or inspiration. Several of
11 these men were not only ineffective military leaders but were the
12 living embodiment of the Confederacy; and

13 Whereas, These installations are home to our service members
14 who have pledged their lives to support and defend the U.S.
15 Constitution. Men and women who live and work at bases named for
16 those who took up arms against the very United States the soldiers
17 pledge to protect; and

18 Whereas, While the installations are named after individuals,
19 it is impossible to disentangle the racist ideology embedded in
20 Confederate symbols. Similar to the way Confederate flags continue
21 to be touted by white supremacists to incite racial tensions, using
22 names of Confederate soldiers acts as a symbol of the Confederate
23 cause. Continuing to use these names amounts to the same expression
24 of allegiance to the Confederacy as the use of any other
25 Confederate symbol; and

26 Whereas, Active duty enlistment draws more heavily from the
27 African American population in the U.S. than their makeup in the
28 general population. African American soldiers are assigned to
29 military installations named after men who not only rebelled

1 against the United States government but did so to preserve a
2 tradition of slavery. It is horrific that we ask brave men and
3 women who protect this country to do so under the names of
4 individuals who fought to oppress and enslave them because of their
5 race; and

6 Whereas, Allowing the names of Confederate generals to remain
7 on federal military installations suggests that the United States
8 supports the Confederacy and all that it stood for: racism,
9 bigotry, and hatred. The names of military installations should not
10 honor a legacy of treason and slavery that embodies the Civil War;
11 and

12 Whereas, The Army's current naming policy provides that
13 memorializations will honor deceased heroes and distinguished
14 individuals of all races who serve as inspirations to their fellow
15 soldiers. The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army is open to talking
16 about renaming of military installations; now, therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
18 concurring), That we support a bi-partisan discussion on renaming
19 military installations currently named after Confederate generals;
20 and be it further

21 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
22 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
23 Defense, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, the President of the
24 United States Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of
25 Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional
26 delegation.