

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.293

Reps. Tate, Pagan, Koleszar, Cherry, Hood, Stone, Sowerby, Cynthia Neeley, Anthony, Pohutsky and Love offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to express support for a bi-partisan discussion
2 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
10 U.S. Army commissions to join the Confederacy; and

11 Whereas, Michigan had a strong presence in the Civil War and



1 significantly contributed to the success of the Union Army. More
2 than 90,000 Michigan men and 30 regiments of infantry served in the
3 Union Army, engaging Confederate soldiers on more than 800
4 occasions; and

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

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

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

24 Whereas, Active duty enlistment draws more heavily from the
25 African American population in the U.S. than their makeup in the
26 general population. African American soldiers are assigned to
27 military installations named after men who not only rebelled
28 against the United States government but did so to preserve a
29 tradition of slavery. It is horrific that we ask brave men and



1 women who protect this country to do so under the names of
2 individuals who fought to oppress and enslave them because of their
3 race; and

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

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

15 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support a
16 bi-partisan discussion on renaming military installations currently
17 named after Confederate generals; and be it further

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

