

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation that gave slaveholding states 100 days to abandon slavery. This proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. It also allowed freed slaves, of suitable condition, to be received into the armed service of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2006, Governor Bob Taft signed into law Amended HB 393 designating September 22nd as Emancipation Day in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio, the annual Emancipation Day celebration held in Gallipolis is the nation's longest continuous celebration of Emancipation Day. Held each year since 1863, the event will celebrate its 149th year on September 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation also allowed freed slaves, of suitable condition, to be received into the armed service of the United States; however, prior to mid-June 1863, African Americans living in Ohio could not enlist in the armed forces to help serve and protect their country; and

WHEREAS, Governor John H. Andrew of Massachusetts was granted permission to recruit and enlist "colored men" for the Massachusetts Colored Brigade and was granted permission to organize the colored men from Ohio; and

WHEREAS, from April 1863 until June 1863, 514 Ohio men (from 24 counties throughout the state), were enlisted in the 54th and 55th Regiments of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. These men were true patriots and became Civil War heroes as a result of their service, but never received proper recognition for their service; and

WHEREAS, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment/Infantry fought with distinction on July 18, 1863 at Fort Wagner, a battle that was featured in the Academy Award nominated and Golden Globe Award winning movie *Glory* and where Ohioan Henry Peal of Company F, received the Gilmore Medal for Bravery for carrying the flag during the attack; and

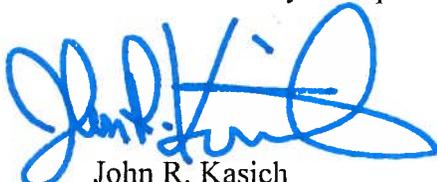
WHEREAS, the 55th Massachusetts Regiment/Infantry served with honor in South Carolina at Folly Island and in the Battle of Honey Hill; and included Joshua Dunbar, father of the internationally renowned poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar of Dayton, as one of its members.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize September 22, 2012 as

EMANCIPATION DAY

throughout Ohio and also encourage all Ohioans to join me in commending the honorable service of the 514 African American Ohio soldiers who fought in the Civil War in the 54th and 55th Regiments of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

On this 22nd day of September, 2012;



John R. Kasich
Governor

