



1108 S. BROADWAY  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048  
(913) 912-3459

**JEFF PITTMAN**

Feb 15, 2023

ATTN: Florence Deeter [Florence.deeter@Senate.ks.gov](mailto:Florence.deeter@Senate.ks.gov)

Chairman Peterson and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

As we celebrate Black History month here in Kansas, I'm writing in strong support SB132 which would establish the Kansas Buffalo Soldier License Plate. This plate has been a concept for a number of years and is supported by many African American organizations in my district.

The Buffalo Soldiers played a crucial role in the history of the United States Army. Comprised of African American soldiers, the Buffalo Soldiers served in the post-Civil War era, participating in a variety of military campaigns, including the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine-American War. Despite facing discrimination and segregation within the military, the Buffalo Soldiers showed remarkable bravery and distinction in combat, earning numerous commendations for their service. The Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in the expansion and development of the western United States, providing security and stability to frontier territories. The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers continues to inspire generations, serving as a testament to the bravery, patriotism, and perseverance of African Americans in the face of adversity. The contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers to the US Army and to the country as a whole deserves to be publicized. This license plate helps recognize those contributions.

In Kansas there is a monument dedicated to the African American troops on Fort Leavenworth, initiated by General Colin Powell. The Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas is a tribute to the brave soldiers who served in the all-black regiments of the US Army. The monument features life-size statues of four Buffalo Soldiers on horseback, each representing a different era of the regiment's history.

Also on Fort Leavenworth is the Frontier Museum, which tells the history of the frontier Army from 1804 when Lewis and Clark passed by present-day Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth. This museum features rotating exhibits that highlight uniforms, weapons, and equipment used during the fort's early days. The Commanding General has let the public know that there is an effort to build a new reimagined Frontier Museum, updated, which among other stories, will tell the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. This will be located outside the gates of the Fort for better accessibility to visitors as they won't be required to get visitor passes prior to entry. This will be privately funded venture that is still in its initial stages. The intent is to use some of the revenue from the license plate to help support this burgeoning new museum.

Outside the gates of Fort Leavenworth is another museum named the Richard Allen Cultural Center. It is dedicated to relating the story of the African-American experience locally and regionally to the public. It is located in a former Buffalo Soldier's house and part of it's



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mission is to tell the story of the Buffalo Soldier's. This museum also has expanded mission to not only relating the history but doing outreach into the local African American community, specializing in tutoring kids. The Richard Allen Cultural Center will be the main beneficiary of the license plate fund, and they will dedicate some of the proceeds to the new Frontier museum as they see the importance of expanding the number of channels that tell these types of stories to the public.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the original initiators of this bill were the local Fort Leavenworth Kansas Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, a social club that is dedicated to service in the community. Throughout the nation, the Buffalo Soldier Motorcycle club keeps the history alive, while the group strives to set a standard to be admired by both old and young as responsible individuals, with high moral standards. With their idea and a worthy cause for the revenue to go to, Committee, I urge you to strongly consider passing this bill out quickly. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Pittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

State Senator Jeff Pittman  
Leavenworth KS



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Proposed Concept Graphic for inclusion on license plate

