

Chair Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, and Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, my name is Darlene Alexander Chapmon and I am the daughter of Lymon Alexander, a proud member of the 761st Tank Battalion and veteran of the U.S. Army. As his daughter, I fully support H.B. 452 to recognize the legacy of the 761st Battalion.

I was honored to attend one of the 761st Battalion reunions and witness the resilience of men who had committed themselves to serve this country. I realized my father had endured people, places and situations which were designed to prevent him from thriving. Over a lifetime he left an impression on everyone he met.

From Houma, Louisiana to a graduate of Wilberforce University in Ohio to service in the United States Army to a life of family, church and community involvement with purpose, my father lived a life influencing others. His devotion to service and a moral high ground instilled values and ethics in myself and challenged young and old to “put your best foot forward “.

During my lifetime I knew him as a protective father. At his funeral, I learned he made a profound impact in the lives of others. As such, passage of this bill would, in turn, have a profound impact on me, my family, and my father’s fellow servicemen and their families.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony supporting House Bill 452.