

October 14, 2025

The Ohio Senate
Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee
Attn: Senator Terry A. Johnson, Chair

To the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety Committee,

It is my honor and privilege to write on behalf of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in support of SB253, which seeks to designate February 20th as "Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day."

Here at the NVMM, we are committed to honoring all Veterans from every era of service, elevating their stories, and amplifying the power of service. We share the pride of all Ohioans for the gallantry and service of four brave African Americans who answered the call to preserve the Union during this country's bloodiest conflict. The legacy of these four men calls us to remember their names: Sgt. Maj. Milton Holland, 1st Sgt. Robert Pinn, 1st Sgt. Powhatan Beaty, and 1st Sgt. James Bronson, who all received the Medal of Honor for their bravery at the Battle of New Market Heights in Virginia.

In recognition of these American heroes, I offer this letter of support for Ohio SB253 to ensure that February 20th will provide an ongoing opportunity to honor their service and sacrifice on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Col William Butler, U.S. Army (Retired)
President
National Veterans Memorial and Museum