

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.128

Senators Hollier, Alexander, Ananich, Chang, Geiss, Bullock, McCann, Brinks, Polehanki, McMorrow, Irwin, McBroom, Wojno, Moss, Hertel, Santana, Schmidt, Bayer and Bumstead 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

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

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

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

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

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

1 tradition of slavery. It is horrific that we ask brave men and  
2 women who protect this country to do so under the names of  
3 individuals who fought to oppress and enslave them because of their  
4 race; and

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

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

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

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