PROCLAMATION

Black Veterans Day

WHEREAS: Black Veterans Day provides an opportunity to honour the sacrifice of Black veterans and a platform to recognize their contributions. With courage, pride, and resiliency these individuals were able to transform themselves to what was once considered a slave into a solider and earned the right to call themselves free Canadians.

On November 7, 1775, Colonial governor, Lord Dunmore of Virginia issued a proclamation that established martial law and offered freedom to slaves who would leave their American owners and join the British army: "I do hereby farther declare all indented servants, Negroes, or others (appertaining to rebels) free, that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining his Majesty's troops, as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this colony to a proper sense of their duty, to his Majesty's crown and dignity."

Within a month 300 black men had signed up with Dunmore's "Royal Ethiopian Regiment." While the regiment grew to only 800 men, his proclamation inspired thousands of enslaved people to seek freedom behind British lines throughout the Revolutionary War.

For those that did survive the war, some were part of the Black Loyalist movement that migrated to Nova Scotia, Canada. On this day, we salute the brave and courageous individuals who selflessly volunteered to fight for their country.

This year Caretakers of Our Culture are participating in various commemorative events in Brampton and in a parade in Buffalo, NY, which is home to the African American Veterans Monument. It is the first of its kind to recognize the contributions of African Americans who have served and are currently serving in all six branches of the military, during war and in peace times.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim November 7, 2023 as "Black Veterans Day" in the City of Brampton.

Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton