



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Pryor*

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing Tillman H. Harpole Post 249 of the American Legion.

*Whereas, The Tillman H. Harpole Post 249 of the American Legion was permanently chartered on January 21, 1937, by a group of 15 Black World War I veterans;*

*Whereas, Robert E. Skelton is credited as the founder and first Commander, a post he held for six terms;*

*Whereas, The first post, located at 2523 Northwestern Avenue in Indianapolis, was purchased in 1938;*

*Whereas, Led by a core of dedicated officers and active and committed members, the post generated a substantial*

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*membership over a short period and was awarded the Floyd L. Young membership trophy for the year 1937-1938, representing the largest gain in members among all posts in Indiana;*

*Whereas, The Post drew national attention with the organization in 1937 of the Tillman Harpole Drum and Bugle Corps that garnered national attention and placed third in the state competition, the Color Guard was judged state champion in 1939, and the Marching Unit was the pride of Indianapolis while Roy Smith was the drum major;*

*Whereas, The Post continued to grow, replacing its building in 1954 and 1998 and winning the 2001 Richard S. Kaplan Award for the most new members in the state;*

*Whereas, In 2000, Post Adjutant Duane Alexander was elected the 11th District Commander, making him the first Black to hold that high office in Marion County;*

*Whereas, Active in the community, Tillman H. Harpole Post 249 has created several community-based programs, including Jazz in the Park, Blues in the Hood, Pearl Harbor Recognition, Avenue of the Flags, Commander's Ball, Isaac Threte Golf Tourney, and several scholarship programs; and*

*Whereas, Tillman H. Harpole Post 249 of the American Legion plays a vital role in the lives of many Hoosiers: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
2 recognizes the many accomplishments of Tillman H. Harpole Post 249  
3 and encourages members to continue their winning ways.

4           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
5 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to Steven L. Barnett,  
6 Post Commander of Tillman H. Harpole Post 249.

