



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 banning segregation in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuing of EO 9981, the Army had become the nation's largest minority employer during World War II, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to complaints of discrimination by issuing EO 8802; and

WHEREAS, EO 8802 established a Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC), but with the end of the war and a new presidential administration, the FEPC was terminated by President Truman; and

WHEREAS, President Truman appointed a panel to serve as the President's Commission on Civil Rights, which recommended more procedures to allow for the protection of civil rights for United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, President Truman called on Congress to enact all of the panel's recommendations, but due to the threat of a filibuster, he used his executive powers to evoke the necessary change with the enactment of EO 9981; and

WHEREAS, EO 9981 states that, "There shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion or national origin"; and

WHEREAS, the executive order established the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services to recommend revisions to military regulations to implement the order's policy; and

WHEREAS, upon submission of its final report, entitled "Freedom to Serve," the committee was terminated on May 22, 1950, and by the end of the Korean conflict, almost all of the military was integrated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2023, as the

75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Military

in the state of Alabama.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 25th day of July 2023.*

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor