



## H.CON.RES. 377 – AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 377 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ike Skelton (D-MO) on June 23, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 377 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 25, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 377 authorizes the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 23, 2008, for a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 9981, which states, 'It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.'

Physical preparations for the ceremony will be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

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### BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Army, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948, establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. To accompany this Order, President Truman also issued Executive Order 9980 which created a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment hiring practices. Executive Order 9981 had set the Armed Forces on course towards full integration, and on September 30, 1954, the Secretary of Defense announced that the last all-black military unit had been abolished.

In observance of Executive Order 9981, the U.S. Army Material Command has requested that each of its major subordinate commands hold events and programs commemorating the beginning of the integration of the U.S. Military. Towards this effort, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command will publish a series of articles highlighting the contributions of African Americans to the military and a chronology highlighting the effects of Executive Order 9981 in the military today.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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