

By: White

H.R. No. 2413

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Twelve members of the Prairie View A&M University
2 Marching Storm band have been selected to perform with the 369th
3 Experience World War I Centennial Band; and

4 WHEREAS, The 369th Infantry Regiment was a legendary
5 all-black unit that gained renown during World War I; originally
6 known as the 15th New York National Guard Regiment, it was called to
7 active duty in July 1917 and deployed to Europe six months later;
8 assigned in April 1918 to the French Army, the regiment
9 subsequently served 191 days in the trenches, earning the name the
10 "Harlem Hellfighters" for the courage and tenacity demonstrated by
11 its members in combat and becoming one of the most decorated
12 American units of the Great War; and

13 WHEREAS, James Reese Europe, a celebrated ragtime and jazz
14 musician, served as an officer in the 369th, and he organized its
15 regimental band, recruiting musicians both at home in the States
16 and in Puerto Rico; in addition to playing for the troops, the band
17 performed extensively for the public and was one of the first
18 ensembles to introduce jazz to European audiences; it also made a
19 number of influential recordings for the French record label Pathé,
20 and following the war, it toured major cities in the United States;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The 369th Experience World War I Centennial Band is
23 one of a number of projects endorsed by this country's World War I
24 Centennial Commission; led by Dr. Isrea Butler of the University of

1 Maryland Eastern Shore with the assistance of executive producer
2 Dr. Stephany B. Neal, the band is bringing together talented young
3 musicians from across the nation to re-create the unique sound of
4 Lieutenant Europe's famed group; following an initial performance
5 in New York during the International Historic Brass Symposium in
6 July 2017, the 369th Experience will perform over the next two years
7 at venues throughout the United States and Europe; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the PVAMU Marching Storm who have
9 been selected for the 369th Experience band are tuba players
10 Dominique Burton, Isaac Dodoo, and Jacob Paul Tatum, trombonist
11 Stanico Knowles, trumpeters David Burrows, David Otinwa, Caignal
12 Wright, and Aaron Cossé, tenor saxophonist Jarrod Henry, euphonium
13 player Josue Canizales, and saxophonists Christopher Quiroz and
14 Shawn Smith; and

15 WHEREAS, This commemorative undertaking both highlights the
16 honored place that the 369th holds in the annals of World War I and
17 celebrates the significant contribution that its regimental band
18 made to the history of jazz, and these exceptional musicians from
19 Prairie View A&M may indeed take pride in joining this prestigious
20 endeavor; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate the members of the Prairie View A&M
23 University Marching Storm who have been selected to the 369th
24 Experience World War I Centennial Band and extend to them sincere
25 best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors; and, be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared

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1 for the band members as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.