

## **SB 13 - Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

**SB 13: Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland**

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and esteemed members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, Senate Bill 13, would establish the Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland. This bill represents an important step in recognizing the often-overlooked contributions of African American sailors who served in the Union Navy during the Civil War.

The contributions of African American sailors in the Union Navy have largely been left in the shadows. This bill acknowledges the need for a comprehensive study to understand the experiences, contributions, and histories of these sailors, particularly those who served from Maryland. These sailors were crucial in the Union Navy's success, and it is critical to ensure their story is told, recognized, and memorialized.

The creation of the Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland will allow for thorough research into the records, muster rolls, and honors awarded to these sailors. It will also make recommendations on how to appropriately memorialize their sacrifices and contributions, which include potential funding, design, construction, and location of a memorial. By requiring the Commission to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2025, we will ensure that this important work is completed in a timely manner.

Additionally, I would like to clarify why this bill is necessary and why we cannot simply amend last year's bill, which created a commission to study African American Civil War Soldiers. Researching Army records is fundamentally different from researching Navy records, particularly when it comes to African American soldiers and sailors. The Army organized its African American soldiers into regiments of 1,000 men, making them easier to track and document in comparison to Navy personnel. In contrast, the Navy initially separated African American sailors to only four sailors per ship, largely out of prejudice. This intentional segregation of African American sailors creates challenges for researching their service and contributions. The complexity and time-consuming nature of this research highlight why a separate commission focused on African American Civil War sailors is so crucial.

We must not overlook the contributions of these sailors, who played a pivotal role in the Union Navy's success. Their stories are an integral part of Maryland's history and our nation's broader

history. By supporting this bill, we ensure that their service is not forgotten, and that future generations will have the opportunity to learn about their bravery and sacrifice.

Therefore, I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report for Senate Bill 13, so that we can honor and memorialize the legacy of African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland in an appropriate and meaningful way.

# **Carrington 2025 Testimony SB13 Civil War Soliders.**

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

*Integrity. Passion. Results*

*Since 2006*

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 13  
Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland  
Submitted by Carrington & Associates, LLC**

Carrington & Associates, LLC is honored to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 13, sponsored by Senator Muse, which seeks to establish the Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland. This vital legislation not only acknowledges the contributions of African American sailors to the Union Navy during the Civil War but also underscores Maryland's commitment to preserving and amplifying the often-overlooked stories of courage and sacrifice in our shared history.

African American sailors from Maryland played an indispensable role in the Union's efforts to preserve the nation. By serving on warships, braving dangerous waters, and contributing to pivotal battles, these individuals helped redefine what it meant to fight for freedom and equality. Their service, however, remains underappreciated and underrepresented in our public narratives and commemorative landscapes.

The establishment of this Commission will enable Maryland to:

- Undertake a comprehensive study of the history and contributions of African American Civil War sailors, including their muster rolls, service locations, and distinguished honors.
- Identify meaningful ways to honor these sailors through the development of a memorial that educates and inspires future generations.

This bill ensures that these courageous individuals, whose sacrifices were instrumental in shaping the Union's victory and advancing the cause of equality, receive the recognition they deserve. A dedicated memorial will serve not only as a tribute to their legacy but also as an educational tool, deepening public understanding of Maryland's complex and integral role in the Civil War.

We applaud Senator Muse for his leadership in sponsoring this significant legislation and for his steadfast commitment to ensuring that African American contributions to history are properly recognized and preserved.

Carrington & Associates, LLC urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 13. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **Maryland Military Coalition SB0013 Written Testimo**

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0013 – Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0013 – Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland**, sponsored by Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will establish a Commission that will study the history of African American Sailors who fought for the Union Navy and make recommendations for an appropriate memorial.

Of the nearly 18,000 men of African descent who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War, and identified by name, more than 2,300 were from Maryland. The size of the Maryland contingent benefited from an agreement to transfer nearly 800 of them from incomplete units of the U.S. Colored Troops into the navy.<sup>1</sup> However, the extent of their participation, their individual stories, and their naval unit history are not well known. The Commission proposed in this legislation will address this gap by studying the history of African American Civil War Sailors and publishing its findings to enhance public awareness of the contributions they made.

Most importantly, the Commission will make recommendations for an appropriate memorial to these sailors. The memorial, when completed, will serve to not only commemorate their service to the Union but also how they served important roles on some of the navy's most important ships.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0013** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/fall/black-sailors>, Black Men in Navy Blue During the Civil War, Prologue Magazine, Fall 2001, Vol. 33, No. 3

Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – SB0013 – Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Visit our website at <https://www.mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Muse for sponsoring this legislation and for his support of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David L. Dragics  
COL (Ret), U.S. Army  
Legislative Director





## **Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition**

Air Force Sergeants Association  
American Military Society  
American Minority Veterans Research Project  
Association of the United States Navy  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Disabled American Veterans  
Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis  
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A  
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans  
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of the World Wars  
Montford Point Marines of America  
National Association of Black Veterans  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers  
Platoon 22  
Reserve Organization of America  
Society of Military Widows  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

## **SB13 - Favorable - 2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Debi Jasen

Position: FAV

## **Senate Bill 13 - Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee - Favorable**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee;

Please give Senate Bill 13 a FAVORABLE report.

We're well into the 21st century, and yet there are still people who perpetuate Confederate lies. We won't get through to everyone; there's a distressing number of people who prefer lies and bigotry over truth. But facts matter, and we need to do what we can in order to find and share them. Senate Bill 13 is one way to do so.

Please vote FAVORABLE on Senate Bill 13 so we can more easily learn more about the history of African American Civil War sailors in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debi Jasen  
Pasadena, MD

## **2025 - SB 0013 0 Civil War Commission on African**

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0013

### Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland

#### **\*\*FAVORABLE\*\***

**TO:** Sen. Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Rev. Kenneth O. Phelps, Jr., Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

**DATE:** January 30, 2025

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, at its 237<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2021, passed a resolution calling upon the Maryland General Assembly, convening in January of 2022, to pass what was then The Public Schools: African American History Development of Content Standards and Implementation Act, relating to the development and implementation of an African American history curriculum in public schools. We are dismayed that bill and subsequent versions to revise the history and culture that we teach never moved beyond this committee.

Given the hostility that has engulfed local school boards in the past few years, we understand that fear and misinformation have made any rational conversation about expanding our history to include all who played a part in living it though not writing it, and the circumstances faced by each player.

We support the inclusive intent of this bill, and all related bills that hopefully will still be filed, but ultimately, we support this because it is about truth, a truth without which there can be no true reconciliation in our nation - a shared history of which we may not be proud, but which defines us, one we can embrace, and finally move on together with a shared understanding of who we are as a people - a truth without which we can never be set free from the insidious grip of our past.

This is a small part of the larger truth which begs to be heard in the form of the sacred stories of so many who were participants in our history and whose legacies have been denied. Including, we might add, Frederick Douglass, who in spite of his



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

relentless pressure on Lincoln before, during and after and the influence that he exerted on his policies concerning slavery, does not appear in the Spielberg film, *Lincoln*.

History without truth is a fairytale at best, and propaganda at its worst. And as is the case with all sin, too many have suffered at the hands of those who have owned our past to the benefit of too few and the oppression of far too many. We have nothing to fear from knowing our true history. But in the reconciliation that it offers, we have everything to gain.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

# **Testimony in support of SB0013 - \_Commission to St**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0013\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
1/30/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#/0013 - FAVORABLE**  
**Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0013, **Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland**

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture reminds us of a primary reason for having this commission, “because it helps us to remember there is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering.”

This bill starts the process for that remembrance of an important facet of both African American and Civil War history in Maryland. It will establish the Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland; requiring the Commission to study the history of the African American sailors who fought for the Union Navy. The goal of that study will be served by requiring the Commission to make certain recommendations regarding the funding, design, construction, and location of an appropriate memorial dedicated to African American Civil War sailors. The end result of the efforts are achieved by requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

These recommendations can then guide possible legislation in 2026 to generate the memorial to help Marylanders remember and honor their history.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0013.**



