

HB0077\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
1/21/2025

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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0077 - FAVORABLE**  
**Commission to Study African American Civil War Sailors in Maryland**

**TO:** Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means 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 HB#0077, **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 HB#0077.**