



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 763

Resolution commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

By Council Members Lappin, Cabrera, Gentile, Koslowitz, Nelson, Recchia, Williams and Koo

Whereas, The economics and state rights debate over slavery in the territories polarized the nation and divided political parties; and

Whereas, On April 12, 1861 the American Civil War began with the first battle at Fort Sumter in South Carolina after years of simmering strife and debate; and

Whereas, Tragically, the war split and divided the country; and

Whereas, After four years of war, the Confederate forces surrendered on April 9, 1865 and the American Civil War ended, marking the beginning of an era of reconstruction; and

Whereas, The Reconstruction Era is known for national unity and civil rights through reorganization of government; and

Whereas, The first of the three Reconstruction Amendments was the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution expanding the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves, by officially abolishing and prohibiting slavery; and

Whereas, The Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States including former slaves, forbidding states from denying any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, and requiring each state to provide equal protection of the law to all people within its jurisdiction; and

Whereas, The Fifteenth Amendment established that no state shall deny a citizen the right to vote based

on race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and

Whereas, The American Civil War and the aftermath helped to establish a stronger government designed to protect civil rights that are the foundation of this country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

BF
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3/30/11