PROCLAMATION

Black Veterans Day

WHEREAS: Black Veterans Day provides an opportunity to honour the sacrifice of Black Veterans in Canada. With courage, pride, patriotism and resiliency, these individuals were able to transform themselves from enslaved people into soldiers. They earned the right to call themselves free, where they were able to start anew in Canada.

On November 7th, 1775, colonial governor, Lord Dunmore of Virginia, issued a proclamation that offered freedom to enslaved Africans who would leave their American oppressors and join the British Army. This granted those enslaved an opportunity for freedom and the 1st chance to serve in the Military in North America.

The Black Veterans Day Committee is committed to preserving the rich history of the successes and the struggles, to be seen as equal and capable military personnel.

Brampton is the 1st city in the world to recognize this date as Black Veterans Day. It was first celebrated on November 7th, 2022, in Emancipation Park, which is the only one of its kind in Canada. The candlelight vigil at Gage Park is an annual tradition and a poppy planting takes place at Emancipation Park.

This occasion marks a special day, which makes Remembrance Week a much more diverse and equitable time of celebration and commemoration as we address the struggles people of African descent had to go through to fight and to die for this country that we love.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Patrick Brown, on behalf of Brampton City Council, do hereby proclaim November 7, 2025, as "Black Veterans Day" in the City of Brampton.

Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton