

# Texas Buffalo Soldier Association

*TO PRESERVE PLACES OF CONSCIENCE AND PLACES OF LEGACY*

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On February 14, 2011  
“For Love of Liberty”



*To Serve in Their Memory*

Preamble: We understand the need for cuts in the budget across the board in regards to the present economic problems in the State of Texas. With that in mind, we would like the Committee to consider the following:

- 1) The Texas Historical Commission has direct oversight over Historic and Heritage sites across the State. If they were to be suspended for two years, what kind of damage would be done to these sites, those owned by the State and those that are not?
- 2) Tourism brings in revenue from all over the State as well as other States to our sites, both by visits to property owned by the State of Texas (Historic Sites), Counties where these sites are located, and along the different Heritage Trails throughout the State. The loss of revenue would hurt everyone involved.
- 3) The Historic Sites the Historical Commission oversees are fragile. They are historic Houses, Indian War Army Forts, Museums and much more. If there is to be a shutdown of these sites, all the funding and hard work by our Historical Commission could be lost. History Lost is lost forever.
- 4) The MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION REGARDING THE TEXAS BUFFALO SOLDIERS PROGRAM in accordance with Article IX, 19.81(d) of House Bill 1, 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, regarding facilitation of the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Program and the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail would be negatively impacted.
- 5) Suspension of this Agency would impact the incorporation of Texas Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail and related County Historic Sites into the Texas Historical Commission African-Americans in Texas Brochure and the Buffalo Soldiers Cemetery Database into Texas Historical Commission, Cemeteries Program.
- 6) If the Historic Commission is downsized or funding removed, what would happen with our Historic Sites under their control? Local County and City governments would be hard pressed to operate these sites. What if they cannot take them? Who would watch over and maintain these sites? Once again, History lost is gone forever.
- 7) Texas Historical Commission Sites provide valuable platforms for students State-Wide with heritage education and heritage travel programming. The loss of these opportunities would impact supplemental education for schools provided by these historic sites.