

Aliyah March and Paige Gibboney

Big Spring Middle School: 7G

January 26th, 2018

Black History Month Writing Contest

Devoted in Times of War

Through countless struggles and hardships, our African American brothers and sisters have remained by our sides through the wars of our past. Even though they were forced to fight in wars as slaves, they continued to show bravery and devotion to our country. More than ten percent of American troops who fought in the civil war were African American soldiers. Our own *citizens* shied away from defending our country, while more than thirty-seven thousand African American, who were refused citizenship, lost their lives. According to research, "There are reports of a few servants who took their master's place on the firing line and were adopted by the regiment" (Library of Congress). Not only did African American men and women serve as troops in the Civil War, Battle at Nashville, The Revolutionary War, and The War of 1812, they sacrificed their own lives by filling the boots of their masters on the front lines. Additionally, women of today are still fighting to be recognized as equals in society. African American women leaped at the opportunity to serve our country in times of war. These men and women have continuously shaped the development of our country, and they deserve to be recognized for their contributions. It is difficult to understand how African Americans mustered enough courage and optimism to defend our country, despite being treated as second class citizens.

Works Cited

African-American Soldiers During the Civil War - American Memory Timeline-
Classroom Presentation | Teacher Resources. Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/teachers/
timeline/ civilwar/ aasoldrs/](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/timeline/civilwar/aasoldrs/).