

New York State United Teachers celebrates the contributions of

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS



The War Between the States

African-American men were recruited beginning in 1862 to serve in the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. By the end of the war in 1865, more than 185,000 African-American soldiers, including 4,125 soldiers and 1,121 sailors from New York state, served in 175 regiments of the USCT. Two New Yorkers, Bruce Anderson and Joachim Pease, were among the 18 African-Americans who won the Medal of Honor, the country's highest award, for service during the war.

In May 1865, and later that year, the Butler Medal was presented to nearly 200 African-American Union soldiers. The medal was commissioned by Major General Benjamin Butler to recognize acts of bravery performed by African-American soldiers at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm and New Market Heights in Virginia.

