

(An empty stage. The only set piece is a metal lawn chair. The other characters appear on stage in pools of light some with selected small hand props. These characters should look as authentic as possible in dress and hand props. A screen can be used to project actual photographic images of the principles and places involved.)

(Lights up. On stage is a lone elderly black man, ninety years old or better, MR. WARD. He wears civilian clothes and the tattered cowboy hat of a cavalry soldier. Sitting on a metal lounge chair, he reclines on his front porch watching the neighborhood children play.) Observing his grand kids fighting, he stands correcting them with his cane.)

WARD

(Shouting into street.)

BOBBY! BOBBY! Ya'll break that up...ya'll need to stop all this fighting...understand...get along...ya'll sit down over there behave ya foolselfes. Say what? Say it again boy. What it this here on my hat? That's the first time you noticed that.

(Takes off hat, shows it to them.)

This here is the insignia of the Buffalo Soldier, see I was a Buffalo Soldier in the Tenth Cavalry stationed in Fort Leavenworth...Kansas...that's where the Buffalo Soldier originated from. That's also where they got the penitentiary.

(Points at kids.)

There was also the Ninth Cavalry, the Twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth Infantry, all soldiers, all negroes, ALL Buffalo Soldiers. Why they call us the Buffalo soldiers? Well...the people we fought, the Indians gives us that name...

(FADE DOWN on WARD, the sound of drums
FADE UP on WALKING BEAR.)

WALKING BEAR

We fought the U.S. Cavalry, the white man, with everything we had. We fought to protect our land and our way of life. One day we encountered a different type of soldier, a cavalry man with dark skin and hair like that between the horns on a buffalo. The buffalo is a sacred creature, strong and fierce, difficult to kill. We had little respect for the white man and his lies and broken treaties, his murderous ways, but the buffalo men were fearless...brave. When the white man brought the buffalo men to fight us, I knew our cause, the cause of my people, was at great risk.