

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 43

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Black History Month is being celebrated in February  
2 2023 in recognition of the rich cultural heritage and significant  
3 achievements of African Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, The observance was first conceived by Dr. Carter G.  
5 Woodson, a Harvard-educated scholar and the son of former slaves,  
6 who saw a need to promote the research and study of African American  
7 history at a time when it was overlooked by mainstream historians;  
8 in 1926, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February as Negro  
9 History Week, due to the fact that it included the birthdays of  
10 Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two men of great influence  
11 to Black Americans; in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded and  
12 formalized the celebration to include the entire month of February  
13 and urged citizens to use it as an opportunity "to honor the  
14 too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every  
15 area of endeavor throughout our history"; and

16 WHEREAS, The country has continued to work toward gaining  
17 greater understanding of the enormity of African American  
18 contributions in all realms; in September 2016, Barack Obama, the  
19 first African American president of the United States, helped to  
20 inaugurate the National Museum of African American History and  
21 Culture, noting the centrality of the African American experience  
22 to the American story; at the opening ceremony, former president  
23 George W. Bush, who signed the 2003 bill authorizing construction  
24 of the building, affirmed the study of African American history as a

1 demonstration of our commitment to a fuller, more comprehensive  
2 telling of the nation's story; and

3 WHEREAS, While the journey of African Americans toward  
4 freedom, equality, and justice is ongoing, the progress that has  
5 been made thus far gives hope that our society can continue to move  
6 forward and embrace change for the betterment of all people; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 2023 as Black History Month  
10 and encourage all Texans to take advantage of opportunities for  
11 learning, reflection, and celebration.