

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 171

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Black History Month is being celebrated in February  
2 2025 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  
5 G. Woodson, a Harvard-educated scholar and the son of former  
6 slaves, who saw a need to promote the research and study of African  
7 American history at a time when it was overlooked by mainstream  
8 historians; in 1926, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February  
9 as Negro History Week, due to the fact that it included the  
10 birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two men of  
11 great influence to Black Americans; in 1976, President Gerald  
12 R. Ford expanded and formalized the celebration to include the  
13 entire month of February and urged citizens to use it as an  
14 opportunity "to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of  
15 Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history";  
16 and

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

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1 of the building, affirmed the study of African American history as a  
2 demonstration of our commitment to a fuller, more comprehensive  
3 telling of the nation's story; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 2025 as Black History Month  
11 and encourage all Texans to take advantage of opportunities for  
12 learning, reflection, and celebration.