

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Black History Month is being celebrated in February  
2 2017 in recognition of the rich cultural heritage and significant  
3 achievements of African Americans; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford expanded and  
5 formalized the half-century-old celebration of Black History Week,  
6 urging citizens to use the entire month of February as an  
7 opportunity "to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of  
8 black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history";  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The country has continued to work toward gaining  
11 greater understanding of the enormity of African American  
12 contributions in all realms; in September 2016, Barack Obama, the  
13 first African American president of the United States, helped to  
14 inaugurate the National Museum of African American History and  
15 Culture, noting the centrality of the African American experience  
16 to the American story; at the opening ceremony, former president  
17 George W. Bush, who signed the 2003 bill authorizing construction  
18 of the building, affirmed the study of African American history as a  
19 demonstration of our commitment to a fuller, more comprehensive  
20 telling of the nation's story; and

21           WHEREAS, The public has flocked to the museum in  
22 extraordinary numbers, and this year, a wide range of federal  
23 institutions are offering special Black History Month programming  
24 as well, among them the Library of Congress, the National Archives

1 and Records Administration, the National Gallery of Art, and the  
2 National Park Service; events and institutions across Texas and  
3 around the country are also paying tribute to cultural icons and  
4 giants of the struggle for freedom; and

5 WHEREAS, While the journey of African Americans toward  
6 freedom, equality, and justice has been long and difficult, the  
7 trajectory of that path continues to inspire hope of a more  
8 inclusive and ever-brighter future; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 2017 as Black History Month  
11 and encourage all Texans to take advantage of opportunities for  
12 learning, reflection, and celebration.

Reynolds

H.R. No. 364

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 364 was adopted by the House on  
February 23, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House