

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 364

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.