

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1334

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Black History Month is being celebrated in February
2 2022 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 gives hope that our society can continue to move forward
6 and embrace change for the betterment of all people; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 2022 as Black History Month
10 and encourage all Texans to take advantage of opportunities for
11 learning, reflection, and celebration.