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By:  Reynolds H.R. No. 43

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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