

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2017

Source
SR 3

**Senate
Resolve No.**
4



Proclaiming February 2017 as Black History Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS, in 1926, a week honoring black history was first established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to coincide with the birth week shared by President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy'"; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, in honor of the nation's bicentennial, President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration of Black History Week to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS African Americans are woven into the fabric of this nation and contribute to the attributes that make the nation strong and just, despite the nation's history of their enslavement and unjust treatment; and

WHEREAS the contributions African Americans have made to building the State of Alaska--from the hundreds of members of Company L, 24th Infantry, United States Army, who were stationed at Dyea and Skagway during the Gold Rush, to the engineers who carved

the Alaska-Canada (ALCAN) Highway through remote and desolate land--often go unrecognized; and

WHEREAS Americans from all walks of life continue hopefully and confidently to strive to achieve a more perfect and equitable union, even when we fall short;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate proclaims February 2017 as Black History Month.