

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4603, by Representatives Taylor, Abbarno, Barkis, Bateman, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Boehnke, Bronoske, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chase, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, Dent, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gilday, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hansen, Harris, Harris-Talley, Hoff, Jacobsen, Jinkins, J. Johnson, Kirby, Klicker, Klippert, Kloba, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robertson, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wicks, Wilcox, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

1 WHEREAS, President Reagan issued the Presidential Proclamation
2 5443 which declared "the foremost purpose of Black History Month is
3 to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal
4 opportunity." It also states that this month is a time "to celebrate
5 the many achievements of African Americans in every field from
6 science and the arts to politics and religion."; and

7 WHEREAS, The desire to succeed and contribute to America caused
8 Black Americans to defy racial hostility, Jim Crow Laws, and the
9 remnants of other economic and social injustices; and

10 WHEREAS, Kamala Devi Harris, Vice President of the United States,
11 is the first woman, the first Black person and the first South Asian
12 American person to ever hold the position, coming from a diverse
13 family where her father was Jamaican and her mother was the daughter
14 of an Indian diplomat, and Harris is a representation of the
15 diversity in our nation; and

16 WHEREAS, Marilyn Strickland became the first Black woman to
17 represent the State of Washington at the federal level in the United
18 States House of Representatives, and she is one of the first Korean
19 American women to be elected to Congress in its 230 year history; and

20 WHEREAS, G. Helen Whitener is the first Black woman to serve on
21 the Washington State Supreme Court, the fourth immigrant-born
22 Justice, and the first Black LGBT judge in the State of Washington;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, It is because of women like Vice President Harris,
2 Congresswoman Strickland, and Justice Whitener that we have made the
3 progress we have in our communities here in Washington; and

4 WHEREAS, We also recognize the vision of inspiring political
5 leaders such as George Washington Bush, a Black Pioneer, and one of
6 the earliest permanent American settlers in the Washington Territory
7 in 1845, William Owen Bush, the first Black person to serve in the
8 legislature in 1889, John H. Ryan, the only Black American to serve
9 in the legislature under three different parties (Farm-Labor,
10 Republican, and Democrat), John Lewis, Civil Rights leader and United
11 States Congressman, and Barack Obama, the first Black President of
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, The list of contributions by other Black Americans to
14 the socioeconomic and cultural fabric of Washington State is long,
15 and includes the writings of Frederick Douglass, Booker T.
16 Washington, Ralph Ellison, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison; and

17 WHEREAS, Scientific achievements include the inventions of George
18 Washington Carver and the three NASA workers—Katherine Goble, Mary
19 Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan—whose calculations helped put astronauts
20 on the moon; and

21 WHEREAS, Black soldiers helped unite the military and the nation,
22 from formerly enslaved people fighting in the Civil War to the
23 Tuskegee Airmen who helped win World War II; and

24 WHEREAS, Warriors for justice and equality include Sojourner
25 Truth, Harriet Tubman, Fannie Lou Hamer, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa
26 Parks, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
28 celebrate Black History Month and recognize the legacy and
29 innumerable contributions of Black Americans to the lives of
30 Washingtonians, not only in February but throughout the whole year.

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