

SENATE RESOLUTION

8623

By Senators Saldaña, Conway, Kuderer, Lovelett, Liias, Dhingra, Das, Pedersen, Wellman, Nguyen, Keiser, Billig, Palumbo, Salomon, Randall, Hobbs, Sheldon, Hasegawa, Hunt, Zeiger, Warnick, Darneille, McCoy, Wilson, C., and Wagoner

1 WHEREAS, Black History Month was established in February 1926 by
2 Carter G. Woodson as Negro History Week and was later expanded to
3 Afro-American History Month in 1976 in honor of the nation's
4 bicentennial; and

5 WHEREAS, It was Carter G. Woodson's hope that, through this
6 special observance, all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic
7 roots and develop a mutual respect for the contributions of all
8 racial groups in America; and

9 WHEREAS, For more than 300 years as part of an established system
10 of slavery and human bondage, Black Americans toiled and survived,
11 and then overcame the degradation and shame of this system to become
12 contributors at every level of our public and private endeavors; and

13 WHEREAS, The desire to succeed and contribute to America caused
14 Black Americans to defy racial hostility, Jim Crow Laws, and economic
15 and social injustices; and

16 WHEREAS, This willingness to succeed and the love for their
17 country has left a positive impact on American culture and society in
18 areas of education, medicine, industry, the military, religion,
19 social sciences, philosophy, agriculture, engineering, and the arts;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Black Americans continue to contribute widely to the
22 attainment of peace, equality, and justice, and all Americans deserve

1 to know of the great moments and accomplishments of Black
2 Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, We honor the accomplishments of the first African
4 American President of the United States, Barack Obama, and the
5 legacy that he and his wife, Michelle Obama, will leave for us
6 all; and

7 WHEREAS, George Washington Bush was the first Black American
8 to serve in the Washington Territorial Legislature;
9 Representatives Charles Stokes and Marjorie Pitter King were the
10 first Black American man and woman to serve in the legislature
11 following the proclamation of Washington statehood; and Charles
12 Z. Smith was the first Black American to serve on the Washington
13 State Supreme Court; and

14 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature is honored to have
15 among its current and former members the following elected Black
16 American Representatives and Senators: Rosa Franklin, Kristine
17 Reeves, Debra Entenman, John Lovick, Eric Pettigrew, Melanie
18 Morgan, Sam Smith, Michael Ross, Peggie Joan Maxie, George
19 Fleming, Bill Smitherman, Jesse Wineberry, Vivian Caver, and
20 Dawn Mason; and

21 WHEREAS, There have been major contributions made to
22 Washington State history by Black American citizens including:
23 Civil rights leader Edwin T. Pratt; poet Mona Lake Jones;
24 artists Jacob Lawrence and James Washington; historian Esther
25 Mumford; and musicians Quincy Jones, Ernestine Anderson, and
26 Jimi Hendrix; and

27 WHEREAS, Washington is a beautiful state, and America is a
28 proud nation due to our recognition of the contributions made by
29 many diverse ethnic populations and because of our ability to
30 work together as a state dependent upon international peace,
31 harmony, and cooperation;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
33 Senate recognize and honor the African American citizens of this
34 great country and their innumerable contributions, and support
35 the observance of the month of February as African American
36 history month.

37 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,

1 do hereby certify that this is a true and
2 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8623,
3 adopted by the Senate
4 February 28, 2019

5 BRAD HENDRICKSON
6 Secretary of the Senate