

SENATE RESOLUTION

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By Senators Rolfes, Jayapal, Liiias, Nelson, Billig, Cleveland, Darneille, Conway, Chase, Hasegawa, Carlyle, McCoy, Ranker, Hargrove, Keiser, Mullet, Hobbs, Pedersen, Takko, Frockt, McAuliffe, Fraser, Angel, Dammeier, and O'Ban

1 WHEREAS, February 2016 marks the 90th annual celebration of
2 African American History Month in the United States of America,
3 established by African American historian Carter G. Woodson; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 400 years ago, when the first enslaved
5 Africans were brought to the shores of North America, black people of
6 African descent have been fundamental to the formation of America and
7 interwoven into the fabric of American history; and

8 WHEREAS, African Americans have and continue to contribute to
9 every segment of the American experience as we know it; and

10 WHEREAS, On this Monday, February 15, 2016, we speak the names of
11 some of the African Americans who paved the way for each of us today;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, We speak the names of freedom fighters and civil rights
14 leaders: Harriett Tubman, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, Dorothy
15 Height, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, A. Phillip Randolph, Dr.
16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Ruby Bridges, and Rep. John
17 Lewis, and those engaged in the struggle for human rights that
18 continues; and

19 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African American inventors and
20 educators: Alexander Lucius Twilight, Edward Alexander Bouchet, Mary
21 Jane Patterson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Elijah McCoy, Madame C.J.
22 Walker, Alain Leroy Locke, Bessie Blount, Angela Davis, Dr. Cornel
23 West, and Dr. Maxine Mimms; and

1 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African Americans contributing to
2 the fields of medicine and science: Benjamin Banneker, Daniel Hale
3 Williams, Mary Mahoney, Roger Arliner Young, George Washington
4 Carver, Charles Drew, Marie Daly, Mae Jemison, and Dr. Regina
5 Benjamin; and

6 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African Americans who shared their
7 gifts in the arts, sports, and entertainment: Edmonia Lewis, Augusta
8 Savage, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Willie Mays, Muhammad
9 Ali, Serena and Venus Williams, Marian Anderson, Leontyne Price,
10 Michael Jackson, Natalie Cole, and Maya Angelou; and

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

14 WHEREAS, We honor the innumerable African American men, women,
15 and children who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom, and
16 who have built the rich and remarkable history we celebrate today;
17 let us all continue to speak the names, share the history and the
18 history in the making; let us all commit to living lives that honor
19 their legacy;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
21 recognize and honor the African American citizens of this great
22 country and their innumerable contributions, and support the
23 observance of the month of February as African American history
24 month.

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