

By: Representatives Steele, Barnes

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING FEBRUARY
2025, AND TO RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD THE SACRIFICES AND
MYRIAD CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY AFRICAN AMERICAN
INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT STATE
OF ARKANSAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

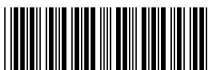
Subtitle

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WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, truly significant African American contributions to social growth, the economy, the military, the sciences, and the arts of this great nation have too often been ignored; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this oversight, Dr. Carter Woodson, a distinguished Black author, editor, publisher, and historian initiated the observance of Negro History Week in 1926, and this was the predecessor to the modern celebration of Black History Month and its accompanying focus on the study of African American history; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month has been celebrated annually since February 1976 and was inspired by the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln



and Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, the progress of African Americans in the nation and in the State of Arkansas has been marked by both the tragedy of social inequalities and the triumph of group and individual achievements; and

WHEREAS, although African Americans have participated in every United States war, the battle for the integration of the United States Armed Forces and for recognition of the accomplishments of African American soldiers has been a slow process; and

WHEREAS, not until after World War II did the United States Armed Forces become integrated under a 1948 executive order by President Harry S. Truman; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes commonly celebrated individuals such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and the Little Rock Nine, but also brings to light information to educate all Americans about lesser-known but equally impactful individuals such as Crispus Attucks, William Harvey Carney, the Greensboro Four, Constance Baker Motley, and a plethora of other historical giants; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy McFadden Hoover of Hope was one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's human computers, a physicist and mathematician who developed the celebrated "thin sweptback tapered wing" that revolutionized flight; and

WHEREAS, Maya Angelou, who spent much of her childhood in Stamps, was a renowned author and poet and one (1) of the first African American women to have a screenplay produced as a feature film; and

WHEREAS, Maya Angelou's poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning", was delivered at President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton's inauguration, and she authored the famed and distinguished book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"; and

WHEREAS, Revoyda Frierson of Hope grew to fame as Ketty Lester, a singer and actress whose recording "Love Letters" rose to number five (5) on the popular music charts, and who is best known for her role as Hester on the television show "Little House on the Prairie"; and

WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was a native of Arkansas City, although his family eventually moved to Chicago because there was no high school for African Americans in his hometown, and he became the most influential African American publisher in American history, helming publications such as Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, and the Negro Digest; and

WHEREAS, Raye Montague was a native of Little Rock whose work revolutionized the way the United States Navy designed ships after she developed a computer program that created rough drafts of ship specifications that allowed the United States Navy to decrease the time it took to build a ship's draft design from two (2) years to eighteen (18) hours and twenty-six (26) minutes,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives celebrate Black History Month during February 2025 and recognize and applaud the sacrifices and myriad contributions made by African Americans throughout the history of the great State of Arkansas and the United States.