

By: Senator F. Love

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY 2025.

Subtitle

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THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025.

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 all too often been ignored; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this oversight, Americans began recognizing "Negro History Week" in 1926, the predecessor to "Black History Month", which has been celebrated annually since 1976 and was inspired by the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month and the study of African American history is part of the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

WHEREAS, the progress of African Americans in the nation and in the State of Arkansas has been marked with both the tragedy of social inequalities and the triumph of group 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, just to name a few, but there are lesser-known but equally impactful individuals who we should educate ourselves on 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, Arkansas, was one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's human computers. As a physicist and mathematician, one of her greatest achievements in aeronautical research was the development of the "thin sweptback tapered wing," which revolutionized flight; and

WHEREAS, Maya Angelou grew up in Stamps, Arkansas, and was a renowned author and poet. Ms. Angelou was one (1) of the first African American women to have a screenplay produced as a feature film. Ms. Angelou's poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning", was delivered at President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton's inauguration, and she authored the distinguished book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"; and

WHEREAS, Revoyda Frierson is a native of Hope, Arkansas. She grew to fame as Ketty Lester, a singer and actress. Ms. Frierson's recording "Love Letters" achieved number five (5) on the popular music charts, and she is best known for her role as Hester on "Little House on the Prairie"; and

WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was a native of Arkansas City, Arkansas. Mr. Johnson's family moved to Chicago because there was no high school for African Americans in his hometown. Mr. Johnson was regarded as the most influential African American publisher in American history, and his

publications included Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, and the Negro Digest; and

WHEREAS, Raye Montague was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms. Montague's work revolutionized the way the United States Navy designed ships by developing 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 SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate celebrate Black History Month during February 2025 and recognize and applaud the sacrifices and myriad contributions made by African Americans throughout the history of this great state and nation.