

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10—Senators Neal, Amodei, Care, Carlton, Coffin, Jacobsen, James, Mathews, McGinness, O’Connell, O’Donnell, Porter, Raggio, Rawson, Rhoads, Schneider, Shaffer, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commemorating African-American History Month.

WHEREAS, African-American History Month will be celebrated in Nevada throughout the month of February; and

WHEREAS, During this month, Nevadans will have an opportunity to become aware of the influence of African-Americans on the history of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Although African-Americans have made significant contributions to the development of the State of Nevada, little significant study has been accomplished in the area of western African-American history, especially in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, When the West was first settled, African-Americans, although legally free and legally citizens, were nevertheless effectively disenfranchised throughout many states and subjected to various types of discrimination and segregation, legal and extralegal, throughout most of the other states; and

WHEREAS, The small but active population of African-American settlers in northern Nevada included Benjamin Palmer, who purchased his freedom from slavery and moved to the Carson Valley where he became a successful cattle rancher on his 400 acres, and James P. Beckwourth, who operated a ranch in the Sierra Valley and after whom a mountain pass north of Reno is named; and

WHEREAS, In southern Nevada, Lorenzo and Dow Barton, two brothers who settled in Caliente in 1857, were responsible for the early development of this town; and

WHEREAS, African-Americans in this state have a long and active history of protesting against racial prejudice and social injustice through writing, community organization and oration and have had among their leaders people such as the Reverend Bill Stevens of Las Vegas, who, in the 1940’s went daily to restaurants that discriminated against African-Americans to attempt to order a meal or a cup of coffee, and Alice Smith, who founded the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP in 1945 and organized many religious and community activities throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, History has demonstrated that the African-American residents of Nevada have maintained a solid social, religious and cultural identity while aggressively asserting rights to legal and educational equality; and

WHEREAS, While there continues to be a need to acknowledge the importance of minorities in both the history and future of this state, our recognition and observance of African-American History Month is a step in that direction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the month of February is hereby designated African-American History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the residents of this state are encouraged to join in this observance and celebration of the history of African-Americans in the United States and especially in the State of Nevada.

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