

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7—SENATORS HORSFORD, MATHEWS, WASHINGTON, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, LEE, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 28, 2005

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMAN ARBERRY JR. AND MUNFORD

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Recognizes and commemorates month of February as African-American History Month in Nevada. (BDR R-1320)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Recognizing and commemorating the month of February as African-American History Month in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, In 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, noted African-
2 American scholar and historian, and son of former slaves, founded
3 the association known today as the Association for the Study of
4 African American Life and History, and in 1926, he initiated Black
5 History Week as the second week in February, to coincide with the
6 birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and

7 WHEREAS, For many years, African Americans in the United
8 States celebrated that week, and in 1976, as part of the nation's
9 bicentennial, the week was expanded into the month of February
10 and is now celebrated throughout North America in an effort to
11 bridge the gap created by American history's failure to accurately
12 acknowledge, portray and record the contributions and inventions of
13 African Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, The original purpose of Dr. Woodson's efforts was
15 to launch a serious platform to neutralize the apparent ignorance and
16 deliberate distortion of the history of the African American and to



1 create a scientific study that would give a more objective and
2 scholarly balance in American and world history; and

3 WHEREAS, In North America, the celebration of African-
4 American History Month includes lectures, exhibitions, banquets
5 and a host of cultural activities presented throughout the month as a
6 time to examine the collective ingenuity, creativity, cultural and
7 political experience of African Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Not only is the month of February significant
9 because of the births of African-American pioneers Frederick
10 Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes and Eubie Blake, it is
11 also the month in which such institutions as the National
12 Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the first
13 Pan-African Congress originated, and historians may recall that the
14 first African-American Senator, Hiram Revels, took the oath of
15 office in February 1870; and

16 WHEREAS, African-American History Month takes on a
17 paramount significance as we approach the 21st century because
18 civil rights laws in combination with such celebrations have exposed
19 the legal consequences of overt discriminatory practices and racial
20 harassment, and the struggles for, and achievement of, independence
21 by African countries in the 20th century have shown the strength,
22 humanity, ingenuity and contributions of the African to human
23 civilization; and

24 WHEREAS, These revelations have not succeeded in neutralizing
25 prejudicial attitudes that generate discriminatory acts, and even
26 though behavior may be controlled by laws, attitudes can only
27 change through education and the elimination of ignorance; and

28 WHEREAS, In the words of historian Ralph L. Crowder, the
29 observance of African-American History Month "must be a
30 testimony to those African pioneers who struggled to affirm the
31 humanity of African peoples and a challenge to the present
32 generation to protect and preserve . . . the humanity of all peoples of
33 African descent"; and

34 WHEREAS, African Americans in the State of Nevada have a
35 long and active history of protesting against racial prejudice and
36 social injustice through writing, community organization and
37 oration and have had among their leaders people such as the
38 Reverend Bill Stevens of Las Vegas, who in the 1940s went daily to
39 restaurants that discriminated against African Americans to attempt
40 to order a meal or a cup of coffee, and Alice Smith, who founded
41 the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP in 1945 and organized many
42 religious and community activities throughout her life; now,
43 therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
2 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 73rd Session of
3 the Nevada Legislature do hereby recognize and commemorate the
4 month of February as African-American History Month in honor of
5 the contributions of African Americans that reflect a proud legacy of
6 courage and dedication which has helped to guide our nation's
7 success and prosperity; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Legislature recognizes that there continues
9 to be a need to acknowledge the importance of minorities in both the
10 history and future of this State and that the recognition and
11 observance of African-American History Month is a step in that
12 direction; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the residents of this State are encouraged to
14 join in this observance and reflect on past successes and challenges
15 of African Americans in the United States, and especially in the
16 State of Nevada, as we all look to the future and strive to continue to
17 improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality
18 and justice.

