

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

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Arberry Jr., Horne, Atkinson, Perkins, Buckley, Allen, Anderson, Angle, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parks, Parnell, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The original purpose of Dr. Woodson's efforts was to launch a serious platform to neutralize the apparent ignorance and deliberate distortion of the history of the African American and to create a scientific study that would give a more objective and scholarly balance in American and world history; and

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

WHEREAS, Not only is the month of February significant because of the births of African-American pioneers Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes and Eubie Blake, it is also the month in which such institutions as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the first

Pan-African Congress originated, and historians may recall that the first African-American Senator, Hiram Revels, took the oath of office in February 1870; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, African Americans in the State of Nevada 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 1940s 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; now, therefore, be it

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

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

RESOLVED, That the residents of this State are encouraged to join in this observance and reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans in the United States, and especially in the

State of Nevada, as we all look to the future and strive to continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice.

