

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 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, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PARNELL, PIERCE, SEALE, SHERER, SIBLEY, SMITH AND WEBER

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



1 and is now celebrated throughout North America in an effort to
2 bridge the gap created by American history's failure to accurately
3 acknowledge, portray and record the contributions and inventions of
4 African Americans; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 WHEREAS, African Americans in the State of Nevada have a
42 long and active history of protesting against racial prejudice and
43 social injustice through writing, community organization and
44 oration and have had among their leaders people such as the



1 Reverend Bill Stevens of Las Vegas, who in the 1940s went daily to
2 restaurants that discriminated against African Americans to attempt
3 to order a meal or a cup of coffee, and Alice Smith, who founded
4 the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP in 1945 and organized many
5 religious and community activities throughout her life; now,
6 therefore, be it

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

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

19 RESOLVED, That the residents of this State are encouraged to
20 join in this observance and reflect on past successes and challenges
21 of African Americans in the United States, and especially in the
22 State of Nevada, as we all look to the future and strive to continue to
23 improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality
24 and justice.



