



## 2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

February 25, 2010 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR and COGGS, cosponsored by Representative TOLES. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** recognizing Black History Month.

2             Whereas, Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first  
3     as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,” and the Wisconsin  
4     legislature in the past has commemorated February as Black History Month to honor  
5     the lives and contributions of Wisconsin African American citizens; and

6             Whereas, Mr. Ezekiel Gillespie successfully argued before the Wisconsin  
7     Supreme Court that an 1849 referendum granting African American men the right  
8     to vote was valid, thus granting, in 1866, the franchise of voting to African American  
9     men in Wisconsin more than four years before passage of the 15th Amendment to the  
10    United States Constitution; and

11            Whereas, Dr. Roger Pulliam of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
12    community has given more than 20 years of service as a tireless advocate for equal  
13    opportunity and academic diversity and has effectively led programs for the  
14    recruitment and support of minority and disadvantaged students, which have  
15    resulted in an increase in the number of multicultural students on campus, as well

1 as developing a welcoming and nurturing environment for these students, and  
2 currently serves the UW-Whitewater in the rank of Assistant Vice Chancellor  
3 Emeritus; and

4 Whereas, civil rights activist Corinne Owens started the Racine chapter of the  
5 NAACP in 1947 and as an educator was denied a teaching job in Racine due to a  
6 district policy that at the time barred African American teachers. She has lead  
7 campaigns for fair housing in Racine, more police officers on the Racine streets, and  
8 more minority teachers in the classroom and she was inducted into the Southeastern  
9 Wisconsin Educator’s Hall of Fame in 1994; and

10 Whereas, Mellie Concentine, a former Racine Unified School District teaching  
11 assistant and Racine resident for 50 years, was inducted into the Tuskegee  
12 University Athletic Hall of Fame on September 19, 2009, where she was a standout  
13 in track and field and basketball from 1946–50. She tried out for the 1948 Olympics  
14 in the shot put and discus. She and her (now deceased) husband, James, have five  
15 children, Terri, James, Brigit, Janet, and William; and

16 Whereas, Ola Baiyewu was recently honored as one of the 2010 Community  
17 Service Award winners at the University of Wisconsin–Parkside’s Dr. Martin Luther  
18 King, Jr., celebration, and is the Executive Director of Racine’s First Choice  
19 Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which, since the program’s inception in 2005, has  
20 helped hundreds of Racine residents obtain high-quality jobs in construction and  
21 manufacturing; and

22 Whereas, Ms. Jeanetta Simpson–Robinson originally founded Career Youth  
23 Development in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as an after-school program along with her  
24 mother, Claretta “Mother Freedom” Simpson, but soon expanded the services offered  
25 to include youth gang intervention, college classes, vocational training, drug

1 prevention and treatment, Children’s Court Advocacy, and “Victory Over Violence”  
2 family grief counseling; and

3       Whereas, Charles “Butch” Walton, the son of Jeanetta Simpson-Robinson  
4 currently operates Career Youth Development in Milwaukee, carrying on his  
5 mother’s tradition of “Love in Action,” and is instrumental in raising the funds to  
6 maintain and mark the portion of Interstate 43 named in honor of his mother  
7 pursuant to Senate Bill 410; and

8       Whereas, Attorney John Daniels is a pioneer in the fields of law, urban  
9 development, and philanthropy as Chairman of Quarles & Brady and has dedicated  
10 himself to the improvement of Milwaukee through joint private/public partnerships  
11 and through leading by example in the giving back to the community through  
12 volunteerism and charity work; and

13       Whereas, Clayborn Benson, a native of Milwaukee who faced challenges in an  
14 impoverished youth and graduated from the old West Division High School despite  
15 being labeled “learning disabled,” and now runs the Wisconsin Black Historical  
16 Society Museum in Milwaukee where exhibits showcase the history, contributions,  
17 and achievements of African Americans in Wisconsin; and

18       Whereas, Hugo H. Henry of Beloit dedicated his life to teaching, tutoring,  
19 mentoring, and encouraging children to reach their full potential, teaching social  
20 studies and history for 34 years at Beloit Memorial High School and McNeel Middle  
21 School. Mr. Henry was also a respected and beloved member of the Beloit community  
22 in his capacities as city council member, role model, speaker, and singer and his rich  
23 baritone graced the choir of Emmanuel Baptist Church and many community  
24 events, including the sharing of his gift of eloquence as announcer at Beloit Memorial

1 High School basketball games and other venues; before departing this world on  
2 March 17, 2008; and

3       Whereas, Rev. Dr. Floyd Prude Jr. faithfully served the families of the  
4 Emmanuel Baptist Church and the Beloit community from July 1973 until his death  
5 on November 28, 2009. His wise counsel and compassion extended far beyond his  
6 congregation as he served for 23 years as president of the Greater Beloit Minority  
7 Coalition and was a charter member and director of the Beloit 2020 Development  
8 Corporation, and Pastor Prude gave generously of his time, talents, and leadership  
9 to numerous other community organizations and causes, including service in many  
10 leadership positions in the Baptist Church and American Baptist College. Pastor  
11 Prude could always be counted on to lend his sage advice and hard work to projects  
12 that fed the hungry, mentored the young, and strengthened the community, and he  
13 was a strong and steady voice for equality and justice; and

14       Whereas, Paul D. Mackey Jr. served in Uzbekistan 2004-05 as part of  
15 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), attaining the rank of major during his military  
16 service, and is currently employed as the Operations Manager of the Environment  
17 Services Department at the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd., where during 2008 he  
18 assisted greatly in the center's indirect cost planning, winning approval for the plan  
19 from the U.S. Department of Labor; and

20       Whereas, William L. Sims was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for  
21 his actions while in service in Vietnam with 101st Airborne Division in 1965 and  
22 1966; upon returning to the United States he was the original founding member of  
23 the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc., and is currently employed as the  
24 Special Assistant to the President and chief executive officer of the Center for  
25 Veterans Issues, Ltd.; and

1           Whereas, many African Americans have served in the legislature, including  
2 former senators Monroe Swan, Gwendolynne Moore, Gary George and former  
3 representatives Lucian Palmer, Le Roy Simmons, Isaac Coggs, Cecil B. Brown,  
4 Walton Bryan Stewart, Raymond Lee Lathan, Lloyd Barbee, Walter L. Ward, Marcia  
5 P. Coggs, Johnnie Morris-Tatum, and Antonio Riley; now therefore be it

6           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature of  
7 the state of Wisconsin recognizes the month of February 2010 as “Black History  
8 Month,” and extends thanks and praise to the above named persons for their  
9 contributions to the state of Wisconsin and their fellow citizens.

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(END)