



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 103

February 8, 2018 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, SHILLING, MILLER, WIRCH, ERPENBACH, VINEHOUT, RISSER and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives CROWLEY, FIELDS, YOUNG, ANDERSON, BOWEN, ZAMARRIPA, SHANKLAND, OHNSTAD, VRUWINK, HORLACHER, GOYKE, HEBL, MILROY, KOOYENGA, KESSLER, POPE, SPREITZER, BERCEAU, SUBECK, SPIROS, TUSLER, RIEMER, KOLSTE and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming February 2018 as Black History Month.

2 Whereas, the United States has recognized black history annually since
3 February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,”
4 launched by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

5 Whereas, the earliest record of African Americans in Wisconsin comes from a
6 1725 speech by a chief of the Illinois Indians, in which he said “a negro belonging to
7 Monsieur de Boisbriant” at Green Bay; and

8 Whereas, African Americans have been living and working in Wisconsin since
9 the 18th century, and records of their baptisms, marriages, and burials indicate that
10 they were woven into the fabric of early life in the state; and

11 Whereas, Africans Americans have demonstrated a dogged persistence to
12 secure the right to vote and fair and open housing; last year, Wisconsin
13 commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Open Housing Marches, in which
14 former Secretary of State and then Alderwoman Vel Phillips, Father James E.

1 Groppi, and the NAACP Youth Council marched for 200 consecutive days to secure
2 fair housing legislation; and

3 Whereas, African Americans in Wisconsin such as Eugene Kane, Mikel Holt,
4 and Jerrel Jones (Journalism and Media), Martha Love (Civic Engagement and
5 Business), Melissa Goins and Kalan Haywood (Construction), Jack Daniels III
6 (Education), Rev. Alex Gee (Faith), Maurice Cheeks (Tech), Valerie Daniels-Carter
7 (Business), Ismael Ozanne (Legal), Clayborn Benson III (History), Dr. Lester Carter
8 (Health), and Mahlon Mitchell (First Responders) have made measurable
9 differences in their respective industries; and

10 Whereas, it is important to recognize the work of these leaders, and it is equally
11 critical to appreciate the long list of contributions, both past and present, of our
12 fellow citizens; Black History Month gives Wisconsinites an occasion to recognize the
13 significant influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in
14 the areas of medicine, art, politics, human rights, education, sports, and economic
15 development; now, therefore, be it

16 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
17 Legislature recognizes February 2018 as Black History Month and extends thanks
18 and praise to the above-named persons for their contributions to the state of
19 Wisconsin and their fellow citizens.

20 (END)