

## 2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 89

January 31, 2002 – Introduced by Representatives MORRIS-TATUM, YOUNG, COGGS, TURNER, WILLIAMS, RILEY, BOYLE, BALOW, BERCEAU, GRONEMUS, SHERMAN, MILLER, POCAN, BOCK, SYKORA, J. LEHMAN, FREESE, SHILLING and WASSERMAN, cosponsored by Senators GEORGE, MOORE, BURKE, DARLING and PLACHE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** declaring February African–American History and Cultural Heritage  
2           Month.

3           Whereas, we acknowledge and honor the estimated 11,000,000 to 12,000,000  
4 African men, women, and children who were forcibly embarked on European vessels  
5 for a life of slavery in the Western Hemisphere and the 9,000,000 to 10,000,000  
6 enslaved African survivors of the Middle Passage to America; and

7           Whereas, throughout the struggle, African–Americans have maintained a rich,  
8 distinctive culture and have made major contributions to the American culture and  
9 the world; and

10          Whereas, through the contributions of such African–Americans as Harriet  
11 Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Fredrick Douglas, W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington,  
12 Thurgood Marshall, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malik El  
13 Shabazz, Shirley Chisholm, and James Cameron, the founder of the first and only  
14 Black holocaust museum in the United States (located in Milwaukee), America’s

1 views of itself and of the world have grown to incorporate new ideas and directions;  
2 and

3 Whereas, through the contributions of African–American musicians and  
4 writers such as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday,  
5 Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Leontyne Price, Marian Anderson,  
6 Andre Watts, Aaliyah, Phyllis Wheatley, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Richard  
7 Wright, Alex Haley, Maya Angelou, and Toni Morrison, the American culture has  
8 been enriched and appreciated around the world; and

9 Whereas, African–American sports figures, such as Tommy Smith, John  
10 Carlos, Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Venus Williams, and Serena Williams, have  
11 demonstrated their ability to be role models on and off the field and in and out of the  
12 ring when they stood up for their rights and beliefs; and

13 Whereas, through the contributions of such African–Americans as Dr. Charles  
14 Drew, George Washington Carver, Dr. Mae C. Jemison, and Garrett Morgan, the  
15 worlds of medicine, science, and technology were advanced; and

16 Whereas, African–Americans have kept alive and derived pride and unity from  
17 their history and other aspects of their cultural traditions; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
19 Wisconsin legislature remember and commend African–Americans for their  
20 achievements and recognize the value of those achievements to African–Americans  
21 and to other Americans; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** in order to encourage everyone in this state to recognize and  
23 salute African–American history and culture, the members of the Wisconsin

1 legislature declare February “African–American History and Cultural Heritage  
2 Month.”

3 (END)