

2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 5

February 1, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives MORRIS-TATUM, YOUNG, TURNER, BOCK, POCAN, CARPENTER, SHERMAN, RICHARDS, RYBA, BOYLE, PLOUFF, KREUSER, WASSERMAN, WILLIAMS, RILEY and COGGS. 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, Leontyne Price,
5 Marian Anderson, Andre Watts, Phyllis Wheatley, James Baldwin, Richard Wright,
6 Maya Angelou, and Toni Morrison, the American culture has been enriched and
7 appreciated around the world; and

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

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

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

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

21 ***Resolved, That*** in order to encourage everyone in this state to recognize and
22 salute African–American history and culture, the members of the Wisconsin
23 assembly declare February “African–American History and Cultural Heritage
24 Month.”

25 (END)