

# State of Wisconsin



2013 Senate Joint Resolution 70

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## ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

Whereas, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which drew from many African Americans taking a positive stance on breaking down the barriers to racial equality; and

Whereas, Clayborn Benson, a native of Milwaukee who faced challenges as an impoverished youth, graduated from the old West Division High School despite being labeled “learning disabled”; and

Whereas, Clayborn Benson is the founder and executive director of the Black Historical Society and Museum, which documents and preserves the historical heritage of people of African descent in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the Black Historical Society Museum exhibits, collects, and disseminates materials depicting African heritage, while serving as a resource center for all people interested in African American heritage and as a promoter of family, community, and cultural activities; and

Whereas, James Hightower III, on June 15, 2013, at the age of 12, became the youngest African American in American history to earn the honor of Eagle Scout, scouting’s highest honor; and

Whereas, James Hightower III, for his Eagle Scout service project, rebuilt six bleachers at the three baseball fields of Kletzsch Park, leading recruitment and fundraising efforts for this massive undertaking that enriched the Glendale and Milwaukee communities; and

Whereas, James Hightower III is an inspiration for children and adults in Milwaukee and in the entire state of Wisconsin for his commitment to setting and achieving ambitious goals and working tirelessly to invest in and give back to his community and the world around him; and

Whereas, many African Americans have served in the legislature, including former senators Spencer Coggs, Gary George, Gwendolynne Moore, and Monroe Swan and former representatives Lloyd Barbee, Cecil B. Brown Jr., Elizabeth Coggs, Marcia P. Coggs, Isaac Coggs, Jason Fields, Tamara Grigsby, Raymond Lee Lathan, Johnnie Morris–Tatum, Lucien Palmer, Antonio Riley, Le Roy Simmons, Walton Bryan Stewart, Barbara Toles, and Robert Turner; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the Wisconsin legislature recognizes February 2014 as Black History Month and extends thanks and praise to Clayborn Benson, James Hightower III, and the many African Americans who have served in the legislature for their contributions to the state of Wisconsin.

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Representative Robin J. Vos  
Speaker of the Assembly

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Senator Michael G. Ellis  
President of the Senate

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Date

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Jeffrey Renk  
Senate Chief Clerk

**2013 Senate Joint Resolution 70 (LRB -4201)**

Relating to: recognizing Black History Month.

**2014**

- 02-13. S. Introduced by Senators **Harris** and **L. Taylor**; cosponsored by Representatives **Johnson, Barnes, Goyke, Kessler, Pasch, Rodriguez, Young** and **Zamarripa**.
- 02-13. S. Read and referred to Committee on Senate Organization
- 02-13. S. Available for scheduling
- 02-17. S. Placed on calendar 2-18-2014 pursuant to Senate Rule 18(1)
- 02-18. S. Entire membership of the Senate added as coauthors
- 02-18. S. **Adopted**
- 02-18. S. Ordered immediately messaged
- 02-18. A. Received from Senate
- 02-18. A. Read
- 02-18. A. Rules suspended and taken up
- 02-18. A. **Concurred in**
- 02-18. A. Representatives Mason and Wright added as cosponsors
- 02-18. A. Ordered immediately messaged
- 02-19. S. Received from Assembly concurred in

2013

Joint Resolution Passed by Both Houses

ENROLL JOINT RES

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ADOPTED DOCUMENTS:

Orig      \_\_\_ SubAmdt \_\_\_      13- 4201,1

Amendments to above (if none, write "NONE"): None

Corrections - show date (if none, write "NONE"): None

Topic Rel

2-19-14      [Signature]  
Date                                  Drafter

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- Original and all remaining copies plus bill jacket



State of Wisconsin  
2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



LRB-4201/1  
SRM:wlj:rs

## 2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 70

February 13, 2014 – Introduced by Senators HARRIS and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives JOHNSON, BARNES, GOYKE, KESSLER, PASCH, RODRIGUEZ, YOUNG and ZAMARRIPA. 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 has commemorated February as Black History Month to honor the lives  
5     and contributions of Wisconsin African American residents; and

6             Whereas, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights  
7     Act, which drew from many African Americans taking a positive stance on breaking  
8     down the barriers to racial equality; and

9             Whereas, Clayborn Benson, a native of Milwaukee who faced challenges as an  
10    impoverished youth, graduated from the old West Division High School despite being  
11    labeled “learning disabled”; and

12            Whereas, Clayborn Benson is the founder and executive director of the Black  
13    Historical Society and Museum, which documents and preserves the historical  
14    heritage of people of African descent in Wisconsin; and

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2 disseminates materials depicting African heritage, while serving as a resource  
3 center for all people interested in African American heritage and as a promoter of  
4 family, community, and cultural activities; and

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6 youngest African American in American history to earn the honor of Eagle Scout,  
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13 Milwaukee and in the entire state of Wisconsin for his commitment to setting and  
14 achieving ambitious goals and working tirelessly to invest in and give back to his  
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16           Whereas, many African Americans have served in the legislature, including  
17 former senators Spencer Coggs, Gary George, Gwendolynne Moore, and Monroe  
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19 Marcia P. Coggs, Isaac Coggs, Jason Fields, Tamara Grigsby, Raymond Lee Lathan,  
20 Johnnie Morris-Tatum, Lucien Palmer, Antonio Riley, Le Roy Simmons, Walton  
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23 legislature recognizes February 2014 as Black History Month and extends thanks  
24 and praise to Clayborn Benson, James Hightower III, and the many African

1 Americans who have served in the legislature for their contributions to the state of  
2 Wisconsin.

3 (END)