2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 109

February 16, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives Allen, Weatherston, Petryk, Thiesfeldt, Mursau, Steffen, Murphy, Rodriguez, Quinn, Wichgers, Horlacher, Tusler, Tranel, Edming, Snyder and Jacque. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: recognizing February 2018 as Black History Month.

Whereas, Carter Godwin Woodson, an African American historian, author, and journalist, launched the celebration of “Negro History Week” in February 1926, which became the precursor to Black History Month; and

Whereas, in 1976, during the United States Bicentennial celebration, President Gerald Ford declared February to be Black History Month; and

Whereas, we use the month of February to remember the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our state’s and nation’s history; and

Whereas, the Black History Month 2018 theme, “African Americans in Times of War,” marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and honors the roles that black Americans have played in warfare, from the American Revolution to the present day; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes the service and accomplishments of Wisconsin’s own Major General Marcia Anderson, who has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal,
the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with
three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement
Medal and in 2011 became the first black woman to achieve the federally recognized
rank of major general in the United States Army, United States Army Reserve, or
United States Army National Guard; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes the bold leadership of
Helen Barnhill, who passed away in 2016. Helen Barnhill was a black business
executive, church leader, and community activist who was a Republican candidate
for Congress and both a delegate and speaker at the Republican National Convention
in 1988. A graduate of Marquette University and a single mom of seven, Helen
Barnhill was organized and ambitious. Her service and career spanned from
marching for school desegregation and civil rights in the 1960s, to serving on the
National Women’s Business Council, to being elected the highest-ranking, non-staff
official for the United Church of Christ in 1983, to starting her own management
consulting firm, to being a candidate for Congress; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes February 2018 as Black
History Month.