



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.

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

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

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

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

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

13 *Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That* the Wisconsin
14 Legislature recognizes the service and accomplishments of Wisconsin’s own Major
15 General Marcia Anderson, who has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal,

1 the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with
2 three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement
3 Medal and in 2011 became the first black woman to achieve the federally recognized
4 rank of major general in the United States Army, United States Army Reserve, or
5 United States Army National Guard; and, be it further

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

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

18 (END)