2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 103

February 8, 2018 - Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, SHILLING, MILLER, WIRCH, ERPENBACH, VINEHOUT, RISSE and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives CROWLEY, FIELDS, YOUNG, ANDERSON, BOWEN, ZAMARRIPA, SHANKLAND, OHNSTAD, VRUWINK, HORN LACHER, GOYKE, HE BL, MILROY, KO OYENGA, KESSLER, POPE, SPREITZER, BERCEAU, SUBECK, SPIROS, TUSLER, RIEMER, KOLSTE and ZEP Nick. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: proclaiming February 2018 as Black History Month.

Whereas, the United States has recognized black history annually since February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,” launched by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

Whereas, the earliest record of African Americans in Wisconsin comes from a 1725 speech by a chief of the Illinois Indians, in which he said “a negro belonging to Monsieur de Boisbriant” at Green Bay; and

Whereas, African Americans have been living and working in Wisconsin since the 18th century, and records of their baptisms, marriages, and burials indicate that they were woven into the fabric of early life in the state; and

Whereas, Africans Americans have demonstrated a dogged persistence to secure the right to vote and fair and open housing; last year, Wisconsin commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Open Housing Marches, in which former Secretary of State and then Alderwoman Vel Phillips, Father James E.
Groppi, and the NAACP Youth Council marched for 200 consecutive days to secure fair housing legislation; and

Whereas, African Americans in Wisconsin such as Eugene Kane, Mikel Holt, and Jerrel Jones (Journalism and Media), Martha Love (Civic Engagement and Business), Melissa Goins and Kalan Haywood (Construction), Jack Daniels III (Education), Rev. Alex Gee (Faith), Maurice Cheeks (Tech), Valerie Daniels-Carter (Business), Ismael Ozanne (Legal), Clayborn Benson III (History), Dr. Lester Carter (Health), and Mahlon Mitchell (First Responders) have made measurable differences in their respective industries; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the work of these leaders, and it is equally critical to appreciate the long list of contributions, both past and present, of our fellow citizens; Black History Month gives Wisconsinites an occasion to recognize the significant influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in the areas of medicine, art, politics, human rights, education, sports, and economic development; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes February 2018 as Black History Month and extends thanks and praise to the above-named persons for their contributions to the state of Wisconsin and their fellow citizens.

(END)