



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 5

February 12, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives VOS and STEINEKE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming February 2019 as Black History Month.

2 Whereas, Black History Month provides a deliberate opportunity to reflect on
3 the common humanity underlying all people and to raise awareness and foster
4 respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent; and

5 Whereas, this year marks 400 years since the arrival of enslaved Africans in
6 Virginia. The existence of Africans in North America can be traced back to 1525, and
7 through 1866 the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is estimated to have ensnared more
8 than 12 million African people, with an estimated 10 million surviving the
9 unconscionable Middle Passage, landing in North America, the Caribbean, and
10 South America; and

11 Whereas, Wisconsin history first references African descendants in a speech
12 given in 1725 by a chief of the Illinois Indians, in which he said “a negro belonging
13 to Monsieur de Boisbriant” at Green Bay; and

14 Whereas, the United States has recognized black history annually since
15 February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,”

1 by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, celebrating the
2 ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation; and

3 Whereas, both enslaved and free people of African descent have participated in
4 every aspect of America's effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom
5 and civil rights and have stories that are an inspiration to all citizens, that reflect
6 the triumph of the human spirit and offer the hopes of everyday people to rise above
7 both prejudice and circumstance and to build lives of dignity; and

8 Whereas, people of African descent or African Americans have made
9 measurable differences in their respective industries, people such as:

10 • Mandela Barnes — Wisconsin's first African American Lieutenant Governor;

11 • Velvlea Hortense Rodgers "Vel" Phillips — the first African American to
12 serve as Secretary of State of Wisconsin;

13 • Lucien H. Palmer — Wisconsin's first black legislator, elected in 1906 to the
14 state Assembly;

15 • Le Roy J. Simmons — Wisconsin's second black legislator, elected in 1944 to
16 the state Assembly;

17 • George Edwin Taylor — Former Wisconsin resident and African American
18 who ran for the office of President of the United States in 1904, as a candidate of the
19 National Negro Liberty Party;

20 • James "Jim" Caldwell — Beloit native, NFL coach (Indianapolis Colts from
21 2009-2011 leading the team to the playoffs four times, Detroit Lions 2014-2017);

22 • Dr. Daniel Hale Williams — African American cardiologist that performed the
23 first successful open heart surgery in the world, founded Provident Hospital, the first
24 nonsegregated hospital in the United States, set up the first nursing school for
25 blacks, born a free black person in 1856;

- 1 • Violette Neatly Anderson — First black woman to argue a case before the U.S.
2 Supreme Court in 1926;
- 3 • Milele Chikasa Anana — Publisher, UMOJA Magazine, a monthly journal of
4 positive, encouraging news about African American people and opportunities in
5 Madison, a civil rights activist, business leader, and former city of Madison
6 affirmative action officer, and the first African American elected to the Madison
7 school board;
- 8 • The Oshkosh 94 — November 21, 1968, 94 African American students at the
9 then Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh engaged in dramatic demonstrations
10 directed toward campus administrators when their requests for equal rights on
11 campus were ignored;
- 12 • Eric Von — Long serving and influential former voice of black talk radio,
13 journalist and broadcaster for Radio One, WNOV-AM (860), WMCS-AM (1290), and
14 WISN Channel 12, and the founder of the online men’s health magazine Brain,
15 Brawn & Body;
- 16 • Arthur Jones — Milwaukee’s 16th Chief of Police and the first African
17 American to serve in this capacity;
- 18 • Reggie Jackson — Head Griot of America’s Black Holocaust Museum,
19 historian and researcher on Milwaukee’s history of institutional segregation, the
20 effects of systemic racism, and the reality of modern segregation;
- 21 • Milele Coggs — Attorney, City of Milwaukee Alderwoman, youngest woman
22 ever elected to Milwaukee’s Common Council and the first African American female
23 to ever serve as chair of the powerful Finance and Personnel Committee;
- 24 • Gerard Randall — Executive Director of the Milwaukee Education
25 Partnership, former CEO of the Private Industry Council, former member and Vice

1 President of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, and currently
2 board member of Cardinal Stritch University, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the
3 Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership, VISIT Milwaukee, and the
4 Wisconsin Arts Board;

5 • Lisa Peyton Caire — Founded The Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness,
6 a Wisconsin-based nonprofit organization committed to eliminating health
7 disparities and other barriers impacting the lives of African American women and
8 girls;

9 • James Causey — Editorial writer, columnist, and reporter for the Milwaukee
10 Journal Sentinel;

11 • Carolyn Stanford Taylor — Wisconsin’s first African American State
12 Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction;

13 • Curtiss Harris — Business leadership, served the African American Chamber
14 of Commerce, the Minority Business Opportunity Committee, The Milwaukee
15 Forum, Milwaukee’s Minority Business Enterprise Committee, and Milwaukee
16 Black Business;

17 • Dr. Alex Gee — Pastor, author, pioneered the Nehemiah Center for Urban
18 Leadership Development, developing and mobilizing emerging African American
19 leaders;

20 • Satchel Paige — First African American pitcher to be inducted into the
21 Baseball Hall of Fame;

22 • Condoleezza Rice — First and only female National Security Advisor and first
23 African American female Secretary of State;

1 • Reuben Harpole Jr. — Civil rights activist, community educator, launched the
2 Freedom Schools to keep students of color engaged in education during the boycotts
3 to protest racial segregation in Milwaukee Public Schools;

4 • Mark Wade Sr. — Business leadership (General Mitchell International
5 Airport concessionaire, All-Star Honda dealership, restaurateur), board chair –
6 African World Festival, philanthropist;

7 • Chandra Cooper — Founder and CEO of Grateful Girls, a nonprofit that
8 provides services and housing for young women who have been sex-trafficked,
9 business owner of a communications and entertainment company, a childcare center,
10 and a retail store;

11 • Kevin Newell — CEO of Royal Capital Group, prior roles in public finance led
12 to an allocation of over \$200 million in federal and state resources as the senior
13 underwriter and to the deployment of the largest single allocation of federal tax
14 credits in U.S. history, and in a separate transaction led the deployment of the first
15 pairing of the low-income housing tax credit and new markets tax credit in
16 Wisconsin state's history;

17 • Marques Johnson — Seven-season veteran of the Milwaukee Bucks,
18 five-time NBA All-Star, and whose jersey was recently retired;

19 • Marcia Anderson — First African American woman to rise to the rank of Major
20 General in the U.S. Army Reserve; and

21 • Phil Cockroft — Milwaukee Fire Department, heavy equipment operator and
22 emergency medical technician; and

23 Whereas, while acknowledging the work of these leaders, it is equally critical
24 to appreciate, both past and present, the long list of contributions of our fellow
25 citizens, Black History Month gives Wisconsinites an occasion to recognize the

1 significant influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in
2 the areas of medicine, art, politics, human rights, education, sports, and economic
3 development; now, therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
5 Legislature recognizes February 2019 as Black History Month and extends
6 appreciation to the above-named persons for their contributions to the state of
7 Wisconsin and the country and their fellow citizens.

8 (END)