

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HR 1024

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5 By: Representatives Steele, Barnes

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING FEBRUARY
10 2025, AND TO RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD THE SACRIFICES AND
11 MYRIAD CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY AFRICAN AMERICAN
12 INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT STATE
13 OF ARKANSAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING
18 FEBRUARY 2025, AND TO RECOGNIZE AND
19 APPLAUD THE SACRIFICES AND MYRIAD
20 CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY AFRICAN AMERICAN
21 INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF
22 ARKANSAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

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24 WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, truly significant
25 African American contributions to social growth, the economy, the military,
26 the sciences, and the arts of this great nation have too often been ignored;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, in recognition of this oversight, Dr. Carter Woodson, a
30 distinguished Black author, editor, publisher, and historian initiated the
31 observance of Negro History Week in 1926, and this was the predecessor to the
32 modern celebration of Black History Month and its accompanying focus on the
33 study of African American history; and

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35 WHEREAS, Black History Month has been celebrated annually since
36 February 1976 and was inspired by the February birthdays of Abraham Lincoln



1 and Frederick Douglass; and

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3 WHEREAS, the progress of African Americans in the nation and in the
4 State of Arkansas has been marked by both the tragedy of social inequalities
5 and the triumph of group and individual achievements; and

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7 WHEREAS, although African Americans have participated in every United
8 States war, the battle for the integration of the United States Armed Forces
9 and for recognition of the accomplishments of African American soldiers has
10 been a slow process; and

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12 WHEREAS, not until after World War II did the United States Armed
13 Forces become integrated under a 1948 executive order by President Harry S.
14 Truman; and

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16 WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes commonly celebrated individuals
17 such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Thurgood
18 Marshall, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and the Little Rock Nine, but also
19 brings to light information to educate all Americans about lesser-known but
20 equally impactful individuals such as Crispus Attucks, William Harvey Carney,
21 the Greensboro Four, Constance Baker Motley, and a plethora of other
22 historical giants; and

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24 WHEREAS, Dorothy McFadden Hoover of Hope was one of the National
25 Aeronautics and Space Administration's human computers, a physicist and
26 mathematician who developed the celebrated "thin sweptback tapered wing" that
27 revolutionized flight; and

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29 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou, who spent much of her childhood in Stamps, was a
30 renowned author and poet and one (1) of the first African American women to
31 have a screenplay produced as a feature film; and

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33 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou's poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning", was
34 delivered at President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton's inauguration, and
35 she authored the famed and distinguished book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird
36 Sings"; and

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WHEREAS, Revoyda Frierson of Hope grew to fame as Ketty Lester, a singer and actress whose recording "Love Letters" rose to number five (5) on the popular music charts, and who is best known for her role as Hester on the television show "Little House on the Prairie"; and

WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was a native of Arkansas City, although his family eventually moved to Chicago because there was no high school for African Americans in his hometown, and he became the most influential African American publisher in American history, helming publications such as Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, and the Negro Digest; and

WHEREAS, Raye Montague was a native of Little Rock whose work revolutionized the way the United States Navy designed ships after she developed a computer program that created rough drafts of ship specifications that allowed the United States Navy to decrease the time it took to build a ship's draft design from two (2) years to eighteen (18) hours and twenty-six (26) minutes,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives celebrate Black History Month during February 2025 and recognize and applaud the sacrifices and myriad contributions made by African Americans throughout the history of the great State of Arkansas and the United States.