

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

SCR 5

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5 By: Senators F. Love, R. Murdock, L. Chesterfield, S. Flowers
6 By: Representatives J. Richardson, F. Allen, Ennett, K. Ferguson, V. Flowers, Nicks, Scott, T. Shephard,
7 Springer

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9 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF
11 FEBRUARY, 2023.

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13
14 **Subtitle**

15 CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING
16 THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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18
19 WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, truly significant
20 African American contributions to social growth, the economy, the military,
21 the sciences, and the arts of this great nation have all too often been
22 ignored; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in recognition of this oversight, Americans began recognizing
25 "Negro History Week" in 1926, the predecessor to "Black History Month", which
26 has been celebrated annually since 1976; and was inspired by the birthdays of
27 Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

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29 WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month and the study of
30 African American history is part of the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

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32 WHEREAS, the progress of African Americans in the nation and in the
33 State of Arkansas has been marked with both the tragedy of social
34 inequalities and the triumph of group achievements; and

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36 WHEREAS, although African Americans have participated in every United



1 States war, the battle for integration and for recognition of the
2 accomplishments of African American soldiers has been a slow process; and
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4 WHEREAS, not until after World War II did the United States Armed
5 Forces become integrated under a 1948 executive order by President Harry S.
6 Truman; and
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8 WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes commonly celebrated individuals
9 such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington Carver, Thurgood
10 Marshall, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and the Little Rock Nine, just to name
11 a few, there are lesser-known but equally impactful individuals who we should
12 educate ourselves on such as Crispus Attucks, William Harvey Carney, the
13 Greensboro Four, Constance Baker Motley, and a plethora of other historical
14 giants; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Dorothy McFadden Hoover of Hope, Arkansas, was one of the
17 National Aeronautics and Space Administration's human computers. As a
18 physicist and mathematician, one of her greatest achievements in aeronautical
19 research was the development of the "thin sweptback tapered wing," which
20 revolutionized flight; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou grew up in Stamps, Arkansas, and is a renowned
23 author and poet. Ms. Angelou was one of the first African American women to
24 have a screenplay produced as a feature film. Ms. Angelou's poem, "On the
25 Pulse of the Morning" was delivered at President Clinton's inauguration, and
26 she authored the distinguished book, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Revoyda Frierson is a native of Hope, Arkansas. She grew to
29 fame as Ketty Lester, a singer and actress. Ms. Frierson's recording "Love
30 Letters" achieved number five (5) on the pop charts, and she is best known
31 for her role as Hester on Little House on the Prairie; and
32

33 WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was a native of Arkansas City, Arkansas. Mr.
34 Johnson's family moved to Chicago because there was no high school for
35 African Americans in his hometown. Mr. Johnson was regarded as the most
36 influential African American publisher in America history, and his

1 publications included Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, and The Negro Digest; and

2
3 WHEREAS, Raye Montague was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms.
4 Montague's work revolutionized the way the United States Navy designed ships
5 by developing a computer program that creates rough drafts of ship
6 specifications which allowed the Navy to cut the time it took to build a
7 ship's draft design from two (2) years to eighteen (18) hours and twenty-six
8 (26) minutes,

9
10 NOW THEREFORE,
11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
12 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

13
14 THAT the General Assembly celebrate Black History Month during the
15 month of February, 2023, and recognize and applaud the sacrifices and myriad
16 contributions made by African American individuals throughout the history of
17 this great state and nation.