



SPONSOR: Rep. Dorsey Walker & Rep. K. Johnson & Sen. Brown
Reps. Harris, Phillips; Sen. Richardson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND URGING THE
CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

1 WHEREAS, African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs,
2 segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2021, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished
6 themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded, and have fought courageously
7 for the rights and freedom of African Americans and people of all races; and

8 WHEREAS, African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr.,
9 James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Frederick
10 Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Vice President Kamala Harris, Dorothy Height, Jon
11 Hendricks, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther
12 King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Audre Lorde, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill
13 Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley,
14 Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers
15 Nelson, Recy Taylor, Louis and Betty Dorsey, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Ella
16 Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, and Edith Savage-Jennings, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and
17 to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and
18 technological advancement of the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2021 House Bill No. 198 was passed adding Black History to the State's curriculum; and

20 WHEREAS, African Americans, such as Louis L. Redding, Peter Spencer, Mary Ann Shadd Carey, Henrietta
21 Johnson, Herman Holloway, Sr., William J. Winchester, and James Sills, along with many others, worked against racism
22 and made significant contributions to improve the lives of Delawareans; and

23 WHEREAS, the contributions of African Americans, from all walks of life and throughout the history of the
24 United States, reflect the greatness of the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those
26 individuals deserved, yet paving the way for future generations to succeed; and

27 WHEREAS, African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government,
28 and the military; and

29 WHEREAS, the birthday of Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to
30 Black History Month; and

31 WHEREAS, Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered
32 the father of Black history, to enhance knowledge of Black history through “The Journal of Negro History”, published by
33 the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an association founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and
34 Jesse E. Moorland; and

35 WHEREAS, Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter
36 G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United
37 States; and

38 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “We have a wonderful history behind us . . . If you are unable to
39 demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of
40 democracy or anything else’.”; and

41 WHEREAS, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals; and

42 WHEREAS, the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach
43 those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before
44 committing to try again; and

45 WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American
46 man, as President of the United States; and

47 WHEREAS, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National
48 Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National
49 Mall in Washington, District of Columbia; and

50 WHEREAS, Black History Month is observed annually during the month of February.

51 NOW, THEREFORE:

52 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
53 Senate concurring therein, that the General Assembly acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of
54 the wealth of history provided by Black culture and recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to
55 reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead; and

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware acknowledges the significance of Black History Month
57 as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the
58 United States and encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in
59 the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware agrees that, while the United States began as a divided
61 country, the United States should honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the
62 legacy of the great United States move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and
63 justice for all.”.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution honors and recognizes the leadership and achievements of African Americans and urges the celebration of Black History Month.