



SPONSOR: Rep. Dorsey Walker on behalf of all Representatives &
Sen. Lockman on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

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

1 WHEREAS, in 1776, the United States was envisioned as a new nation, dedicated to the principle set forth in the
2 Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain
3 unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”; and

4 WHEREAS, Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th
5 century; and

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

8 WHEREAS, in 2020, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United
9 States; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History
33 Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

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

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

41 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us . . . If you are unable to
42 demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of
43 democracy or anything else'."; and

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

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

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

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

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

54 NOW, THEREFORE:

55 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
56 Senate concurring therein, that the General Assembly acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of
57 the wealth of history provided by Black culture and recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to
58 reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead; and

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

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware agrees that, while the United States began as a divided
64 country, the United States should honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the
65 legacy of the great United States move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and
66 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.