

**SENATE RESOLUTION  
1997-8615**

By Senators Franklin, Swecker, Long, Goings, Kohl, Spanel, Rasmussen and Sheldon

WHEREAS, The month of February, 1997, marks the 60th anniversary of an official Black History celebration; and

WHEREAS, This month also marks the 20th anniversary of the official observance of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, There is still a widespread lack of knowledge among the population in general that African Americans have played major roles and contributed in every aspect to the development and building of our country; and

WHEREAS, The actual history of Africans in Africa and around the world is a fascinating and enlightening journey of both African peoples and individuals; and

WHEREAS, The history of Africans in the Americas is as old as the history of Europeans in the New World; and

WHEREAS, The full story of Africans at home and abroad goes far beyond the traditionally emphasized experience of domination by and subjugation to others in the New World; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month affords students of all backgrounds the chance to see the accomplishments and contributions of Africans, both in Africa and around the world; and

WHEREAS, For many young people, Black History Month has led to exposure to literature, art, philosophy, and culture that they otherwise might never experience; and

WHEREAS, The study of the history of African Americans and their contributions can broaden our views and strengthen racial relations within our country's diverse population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Washington State Senate do hereby recognize and appreciate the many benefits of Black History Month to our citizenry and to our culture in general and that we urge all citizens of the State of Washington to join with us in taking the opportunity this month to explore this rich history and expand our world view.

I, Mike O'Connell, Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 1997-8615,  
adopted by the Senate February 17, 1997.

MIKE O'CONNELL  
Secretary of the Senate