

SENATE RESOLUTION

8716

By Senators Rolfes, Jayapal, Liiias, Nelson, Billig, Cleveland, Darneille, Conway, Chase, Hasegawa, Carlyle, McCoy, Ranker, Hargrove, Keiser, Mullet, Hobbs, Pedersen, Takko, Frockt, McAuliffe, Fraser, Angel, Dammeier, O'Ban, Benton, Roach, and Habib

1 WHEREAS, February 2016 marks the 90th annual celebration of
2 African American History Month in the United States of America,
3 established by African American historian Carter G. Woodson; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 400 years ago, when the first enslaved
5 Africans were brought to the shores of North America, black people of
6 African descent have been fundamental to the formation of America and
7 interwoven into the fabric of American history; and

8 WHEREAS, African Americans have and continue to contribute to
9 every segment of the American experience as we know it; and

10 WHEREAS, On this Monday, February 15, 2016, we speak the names of
11 some of the African Americans who paved the way for each of us today;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, We speak the names of freedom fighters and civil rights
14 leaders: Harriett Tubman, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, Dorothy
15 Height, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, A. Phillip Randolph, Dr.
16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Ruby Bridges, and Rep. John
17 Lewis, and those engaged in the struggle for human rights that
18 continues; and

19 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African American inventors and
20 educators: Alexander Lucius Twilight, Edward Alexander Bouchet, Mary
21 Jane Patterson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Elijah McCoy, Madame C.J.
22 Walker, Alain Leroy Locke, Bessie Blount, Angela Davis, Dr. Cornel
23 West, and Dr. Maxine Mimms; and

1 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African Americans
2 contributing to the fields of medicine and science: Benjamin
3 Banneker, Daniel Hale Williams, Mary Mahoney, Roger Arliner
4 Young, George Washington Carver, Charles Drew, Marie Daly, Mae
5 Jemison, and Dr. Regina Benjamin; and

6 WHEREAS, We speak the names of African Americans who shared
7 their gifts in the arts, sports, and entertainment: Edmonia
8 Lewis, Augusta Savage, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes,
9 Willie Mays, Muhammad Ali, Serena and Venus Williams, Marian
10 Anderson, Leontyne Price, Michael Jackson, Natalie Cole, and
11 Maya Angelou; and

12 WHEREAS, We honor the accomplishments of the first African
13 American President of the United States, Barack Obama, and the
14 legacy that he and his wife, Michelle Obama, will leave for us
15 all; and

16 WHEREAS, We honor the innumerable African American men,
17 women, and children who gave their lives in the struggle for
18 freedom, and who have built the rich and remarkable history we
19 celebrate today; let us all continue to speak the names, share
20 the history and the history in the making; let us all commit to
21 living lives that honor their legacy;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
23 Senate recognize and honor the African American citizens of this
24 great country and their innumerable contributions, and support
25 the observance of the month of February as African American
26 history month.

27 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
28 do hereby certify that this is a true and
29 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8716,
30 adopted by the Senate
31 February 12, 2016

32 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
33 Secretary of the Senate