

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4655, by Representatives Jenkins, Wilcox, Appleton, Barkis, Bergquist, Blake, Boehnke, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, DeBolt, Dent, Doglio, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gildon, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hansen, Harris, Hoff, Hudgins, Irwin, Jenkin, J. Johnson, Kilduff, Kirby, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, Mead, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Pellicciotti, Peterson, Pettigrew, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robinson, Rude, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Slatter, Smith, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Van Werven, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

1 WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated in Washington state
2 and around the nation due to the efforts of Dr. Carter Woodson, who
3 in 1926 advocated that we set aside a special period in February to
4 recognize the history, heritage, and achievements of black people in
5 the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose February to celebrate black history to
7 honor the birth month of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass and
8 President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1776, those founding the United States stated they
11 were dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of
12 Independence that all men are created equal, and endowed by their
13 creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty and
14 the pursuit of happiness; and

15 WHEREAS, Much of the history of black Americans can be viewed
16 through the lens of the long, hard struggle to reconcile the reality
17 of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation with the words and ideals
18 written in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, In the face of persistent and entrenched injustice and
21 inequality, countless men and women of good will came together to
22 fight to improve our imperfect union and bring it closer to the
23 ideals of equality and opportunity for all; and

1 WHEREAS, We recognize the vision and ideas of writers like Maya
2 Angelou, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, and Ralph Ellison; and

3 WHEREAS, We honor the vision and resolve of national leaders such
4 as Shirley Chisholm and Elijah Cummings, along with local leaders
5 such as Thelma Jackson of Tacoma and Norm Rice, the first black
6 American mayor of Seattle; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2008, Barack Obama became the first black American to
8 serve as President of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2019, Representative John Lovick became Acting
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives and became the first black
11 American to serve as Speaker in the history of Washington, which
12 achieved statehood in 1889;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
14 recognize the contributions of black men and women to our
15 communities, cities, military, the state of Washington, and the
16 United States of America; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
18 encourage the celebration of Black History Month in our schools and
19 universities, and in our communities and neighborhoods, to foster a
20 better understanding of that history and its significance here in
21 Washington and throughout this nation.

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23 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
24 Resolution 4655 adopted by the House of Representatives
25 February 3, 2020
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31 Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk