
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 226 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, TOMLINSON, PILEGGI, O'PAKE, BAKER,
BRUBAKER, STACK, BOSCOLA, FERLO, FONTANA, HUGHES, KITCHEN,
A. WILLIAMS, KASUNIC, FUMO, DINNIMAN, PUNT, TARTAGLIONE,
RAFFERTY, MUSTO, WOZNIAK, MELLOW, PICCOLA, ERICKSON, ORIE,
GREENLEAF, LAVALLE AND C. WILLIAMS, JANUARY 29, 2008

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 29, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of February 2008 as "Black History Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is the duty of a society to recognize those
4 individuals within its borders who have contributed greatly to
5 the quality of life therein; and

6 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American citizens as
7 scientists, inventors, farmers, educators, homemakers and
8 explorers and in countless other professions have greatly
9 benefited this Commonwealth and our nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Multiethnicity and multiculturalism may be
11 encouraged with an increased awareness of the important role
12 that African Americans have played throughout the history of
13 this Commonwealth and our nation; and

14 WHEREAS, Carter Goodwin Woodson, an African-American
15 historian, recognized these contributions and accomplishments
16 and on February 7, 1926, created a cultural landmark known as

1 "Negro History Week"; and

2 WHEREAS, "Negro History Week" was changed to "Black History
3 Week" during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and then
4 subsequently expanded to "Black History Month" in 1976 as part
5 of the Bicentennial celebration; and

6 WHEREAS, The month of February is significant and recognized
7 in African-American history for the birthdays of great African-
8 American pioneers and institutions, such as Frederick Douglass,
9 W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, the NAACP and the
10 first Pan-African Congress; and

11 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" draws our collective attention
12 to the experience of African-Americans in this country, from the
13 beauty and strength of a people suffering an unjust sentence of
14 slavery, to the gains during the abolitionist movement,
15 including the 14th Amendment, to a backlash of the oppressive
16 laws of "Jim Crow" which legalized the institutional separation
17 of the races, to the celebration of life and the arts through
18 the Harlem Renaissance, to the numerous and significant gains of
19 freedom by the civil rights movement and agents of change like
20 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers and Malcolm
21 X; and

22 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" asks all Americans to
23 commemorate the struggles and victories of African Americans in
24 our history and their invaluable contributions to society and to
25 the protection and defense of our nation in war and peace; and

26 WHEREAS, For the immeasurable struggle of the leaders,
27 victims and silent heroes who have fought to end discrimination,
28 hatred, bigotry and segregation, we are all in debt; therefore
29 be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of February

1 2008 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania in recognition of
2 the contributions of the African-American community to our
3 Commonwealth and our nation and encourage all citizens of this
4 Commonwealth to seek increased awareness and understanding of
5 these contributions through historical study.