

A RESOLUTION recognizing February 2015 as Black History Month.

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who worked in the Kentucky coal mines as a child and was the son of former slaves, enrolled in high school at the age of 20 and went on to graduate from Berea College with a bachelor's degree, received his master's degree from the University of Chicago, and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University where he was one of the first scholars to study African American history; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Woodson proposed and launched a weeklong celebration of the individuals and occasions having a significant impact on African American history in America, and has since been known as the "Father of Black History"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson chose the month of February to conduct this commemoration because the birthdays of two men whose actions have significantly affected African Americans in this country are in February namely Frederick Douglass, the gifted orator, writer, and statesman who was a tireless advocate of the anti-slavery movement, and Abraham Lincoln, a native son of Kentucky who signed the Emancipation Proclamation and is considered to be one of America's greatest presidents; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the commemoration was extended from a weeklong event to the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, during the month of February 2015, across the United States of America and this great Commonwealth, observances are held to increase public awareness of the importance of black history and the contributions that African Americans have made toward their country; and

WHEREAS, not only during the month of February 2015, but throughout the remainder of the year it is important that we, as brethren, reach out to one another in seeking to understand our fellow man in a peaceful and loving way; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great Commonwealth should recommit themselves to an ideal America where equality and justice will always prevail, and to the principles of love, wisdom, and compassion toward one another; and

WHEREAS, the respect that fellow citizens have for one another determines the value of any country;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes the month of February 2015 as Black History Month, and urges that the citizens of this Commonwealth be mindful of the contributions of African Americans and of all its citizens throughout the year.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal.