

A RESOLUTION celebrating February as Black History Month and honoring Dr. Carolyn Dupont.

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, receive his master's degree from the University of Chicago, and earn 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—Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln—were both in February; and

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great Commonwealth should recommit themselves, not only in February but throughout the year, 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, to that end, in August 2015 Dr. Carolyn Dupont, associate professor of history at Eastern Kentucky University, has worked tirelessly with 71 other professional historians from across this Commonwealth to provide significant guidance on the importance of historical symbolism, and to strive for equality and justice in our daily lives;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

***Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby celebrate February as Black History Month and acknowledge the voices of Dr. Carolyn Dupont and the 71 historians who have provided significant guidance on the issue of historical symbolism and who have continued the struggle for equality and justice.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Black History Month and in rightful recognition of those historians whose courage and vision are paramount in the creation of a more equal, just, and historically fair depiction of Kentucky's past.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal.