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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 235 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY STREET, TARTAGLIONE, SAVAL, SCHWANK, COMMITTA,  
HUGHES, HAYWOOD, BOSCOLA, LAUGHLIN, FONTANA, ROTHMAN, BROWN  
AND KEARNEY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2024 as "Black History Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American citizens as  
4 scientists, inventors, legislators, farmers, educators,  
5 explorers and countless other professions have positively  
6 impacted every sphere of influence within this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1915, in response to the dearth of information  
8 that existed in the public domain regarding the feats and  
9 accomplishments of African Americans, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson,  
10 an African-American historian, founded the Association for the  
11 Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the  
12 Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
13 (ASALH); and

14 WHEREAS, In an effort to further build upon the mission and  
15 scope of the ASALH, on February 7, 1926, Dr. Woodson designated  
16 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was  
17 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth

1 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick  
2 Douglass; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson, often referred to as the "Father of  
4 Black History," dedicated his life to the field of African-  
5 American history and encouraged the coordinated teaching and  
6 study of the history of African Americans in our nation's  
7 schools; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1928, ASALH established its first annual theme  
9 for what was then known as "Negro History Week," which was  
10 "Civilization: A World Achievement"; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the course of several decades following the  
12 inception of "Negro History Week," many local municipalities,  
13 colleges and universities across the country began celebrating  
14 the observance in an augmented form as "Black History Month";  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized  
17 and included "Black History Month" as part of the United States  
18 Bicentennial, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to  
19 honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans  
20 in every area of human endeavor throughout our history"; and

21 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus has always  
22 endeavored to vigorously advocate for the needs of all people of  
23 color in this Commonwealth by acting as a unified voice  
24 concerning the issues that most acutely impact their daily  
25 lives; and

26 WHEREAS, This year's "Black History Month" theme, as  
27 established and adopted by ASALH, is "African Americans and the  
28 Arts"; and

29 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all  
30 citizens to commemorate the historical hardships and

1 achievements of African Americans, laud their invaluable  
2 contributions to both our domestic and global community and  
3 acknowledge the sacrifices that African Americans have made on  
4 behalf and in defense of our great nation; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of February  
6 2024 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents of this  
8 Commonwealth to learn and explore the rich and significant  
9 heritage of African Americans.