

State of Misconsin 2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

## **2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 11**

February 20, 2023 – Introduced by Representatives DRAKE, BALDEH, MYERS, HAYWOOD, STUBBS, MOORE OMOKUNDE, MADISON, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, SHELTON, SNODGRASS, PALMERI, CLANCY, HONG, GOYKE, ANDRACA, SINICKI, RATCLIFF, CONSIDINE, C. ANDERSON, J. ANDERSON, BARE, VINING, RIEMER, ALLEN, MURPHY, EMERSON, JOERS, SUBECK, ORTIZ-VELEZ, CONLEY, BILLINGS, SHANKLAND, CABRERA, JACOBSON, DOYLE, MCGUIRE and TUSLER, cosponsored by Senators L. JOHNSON, AGARD, CARPENTER, WIRCH, LARSON, SPREITZER, SMITH, HESSELBEIN, ROYS and PFAFF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

| 1  | <b>Relating to:</b> proclaiming February 2023 as Black History Month.                  |
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| 2  | Whereas, Black History Month provides a deliberate opportunity to reflect on           |
| 3  | the common humanity underlying all people and to raise awareness and foster            |
| 4  | respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent; and           |
| 5  | Whereas, this year marks over 400 years since the arrival of enslaved Africans         |
| 6  | in Virginia. The existence of Africans in North America can be traced back to 1525,    |
| 7  | and through 1866 the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is estimated to have ensnared          |
| 8  | more than 12 million African people, with an estimated 10 million surviving the        |
| 9  | unconscionable Middle Passage, landing in North America, the Caribbean, and            |
| 10 | South America; and   |
| 11 | Whereas, Wisconsin history first references African descendants in a speech            |
| 12 | given in 1725 by a chief of the Illinois Indians, in which he said, "a negro belonging |
| 13 | to Monsieur de Boisbriant" at Green Bay; and   |
| 14 | Whereas, on February 12, 1926, noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr.                 |
| 15 | Carter G. Woodson founded "Negro History Week," and since then the United States       |

has recognized first Negro History Week and then Black History Month and
 celebrated the ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation;
 and

Whereas, both enslaved and free people of African descent have participated in every aspect of America's effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights, and have stories that are an inspiration to all citizens, that reflect the triumph of the human spirit, and that offer the hopes of everyday people to rise above both prejudice and circumstance and to build lives of dignity; and

9 Whereas, people of African descent or African Americans have made
10 measurable differences in their respective industries, such as:

11 1. Elisterine Clayton — 100-year-old Milwaukee resident, who along with her 12husband Powell Clayton were a part of building the historic Halvard Park 13community. Halvard Park is one of the longest-standing African-American middle class residential neighborhoods within Milwaukee. Elisterine owned and operated 14a series of grocery stores in underserved communities and ensured that residents 1516 had access to healthy food options within their neighborhoods. She was a part of a pioneering group that brought Black-owned banks, medical practices, and 1718 businesses to the Bronzeville area.

- Torre Johnson, Sr. Founder of X-Men United. Longtime Community and
   Youth Advocate. Connected to Jeanetta Robinson and CYD.
- 3. Gab Taylor Cofounder of Program the Parks and member of Standing Up
   for Racial Justice. Held activities and programming for youth in Sherman park since
   2016 and fed hundreds of young people from Sherman Park to Moody Park.

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4. Paul Higginbotham — The first African-American judge to serve on the
 Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He was appointed to the court by Governor James Doyle
 in 2003 and subsequently elected to the court in 2005.

4 5. Marcia Anderson — A retired senior officer of the United States Army

Reserve from Beloit, Wisconsin. The first African-American woman to become a
major general in the United States Army Reserve.

6. Alonzo Robinson Jr. — Wisconsin's first African-American registered
Architect and the City of Milwaukee's first Black registered Municipal Architect. On
Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the Milwaukee Fire Department Administration
building was renamed after Alonzo Robinson.

7. Dr. William Rogers — a historian and educator, who was an integral part of
the formation of the Black Radio Network, an African studies educator, who made
significant contributions to the study of Black life, civil rights, and social justice; now,
therefore, be it

15 **Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the Wisconsin 16 Legislature recognizes February 2023 as Black History Month and extends 17 appreciation to the above-named persons for their contributions to the state of 18 Wisconsin, the country, and their fellow citizens.

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(END)