

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 22, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis

(Coauthor: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Logue, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

February 14, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 19—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 19, as amended, Davis. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2011 as Black History Month, urge all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month, and encourage the people of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and contributions that African Americans make to their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished African
2 American author, editor, publisher, and historian, who is known
3 as the “Father of Black History,” founded Negro History Week in
4 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, intended to
5 encourage further research and publishing regarding the untold
6 stories of African American heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, The history of African Americans here in the
8 United States, as well as throughout the ages, is indeed unique and
9 vibrant, and it is appropriate to celebrate this history during the
10 month of February 2011, which has been proclaimed as Black
11 History Month; and

12 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
13 inspirational stories of great men and noble women whose actions,
14 words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed
15 to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, During the first millennium, the Catholic Church
17 had three popes who were either from Africa or of African descent:
18 Saint Victor I (189–99), Saint Miltiades (311–14), and Saint
19 Gelasius I (492–96); and

20 WHEREAS, The slave trade was a tragic episode in African
21 history and began before August 1619 when the first slaves arrived
22 in Jamestown, Virginia. During the course of the slave trade, an
23 estimated 50 million African men, women, and children were lost
24 to their native continent, though only about 15 million arrived
25 safely to a new home. The others lost their lives on African soil
26 or along the Guinea coast, or finally in holds on the ships during
27 the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean; and

28 WHEREAS, The first American to shed blood in the revolution
29 that freed America from British rule was Crispus Attucks (March
30 5, 1770, Boston Massacre), an African American seaman and slave.
31 African Americans also fought in wars including the Battles of
32 Lexington and Concord in April 1775, Ticonderoga, White Plains,
33 Bennington, Brandywine, Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker
34 Hill, the Battle of Rhode Island on August 29, 1775, and other
35 revolutionary war battles, the War of 1812, including, the Battle
36 of New Orleans, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World
37 Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam; and

38 WHEREAS, In spite of the African slave trade, many Africans
39 and African Americans continued to move forward in society;
40 during the Reconstruction period, two African Americans served

1 in the United States Senate and 14 sat in the House of
2 Representatives; and

3 WHEREAS, From the earliest days of the United States, the
4 course of its history has been greatly influenced by Black heroes
5 and pioneers in many diverse areas, from science, medicine,
6 business, and education to government, industry, and social
7 leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, Africans and African Americans have also been
9 great inventors, inventing and improving things such as the
10 air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood plasma
11 bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, electric lamp bulb, elevator,
12 fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee, horseshoe,
13 lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, lock, lubricating cup,
14 refrigerating apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone
15 transmitter, thermostat control, traffic signal, and typewriter; and

16 WHEREAS, A number of these brave and accomplished
17 individuals, such as Booker T. Washington, George Washington
18 Carver, Matthew Hansen, Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Drew,
19 Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Curt Flood, Medgar Evers, and,
20 of course, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., are noted prominently in
21 the history books of students nationwide, thus enabling them to
22 learn about the important and lasting contributions of these
23 individuals; and

24 WHEREAS, Among those Americans who have enriched our
25 society are the members of the African American
26 community—individuals who have been steadfast in their
27 commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for
28 all; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
31 recognizing February 2011 as Black History Month, urges all
32 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
33 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
34 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and
35 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
36 and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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