

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 9

**Introduced by Assembly Members Mitchell, Bradford, Brown, Hall,
Holden, Jones-Sawyer, and Weber**
(Principal coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

January 28, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 9, as introduced, Mitchell. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2013 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 2013, which has been proclaimed as Black
11 History Month; and

1 WHEREAS, There is even greater cause for a reverent
2 celebration in 2013 as Americans reflect on the significance of the
3 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 50th
4 anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom,
5 and the 50th anniversary of the death of civil rights leader Medgar
6 Evers; and

7 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
8 inspirational stories of great men and noble women whose actions,
9 words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed
10 to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, The first American to shed blood in the revolution
24 that freed America from British rule was Crispus Attucks (March
25 5, 1770, Boston Massacre), an African American seaman and slave.
26 African Americans also fought in wars including the Battles of
27 Lexington and Concord in April 1775, Ticonderoga, White Plains,
28 Bennington, Brandywine, Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker
29 Hill, the Battle of Rhode Island on August 29, 1775, and other
30 revolutionary war battles, the War of 1812, including, the Battle
31 of New Orleans, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World
32 Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam; and

33 WHEREAS, In spite of the African slave trade, many Africans
34 and African Americans continued to move forward in society;
35 during the Reconstruction period, two African Americans served
36 in the United States Senate and 14 sat in the House of
37 Representatives; and

38 WHEREAS, From the earliest days of the United States, the
39 course of its history has been greatly influenced by Black heroes
40 and pioneers in many diverse areas, from science, medicine,

1 business, and education to government, industry, and social
2 leadership; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Among those Americans who have enriched our
20 society are the members of the African American
21 community—individuals who have been steadfast in their
22 commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for
23 all; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
26 recognizing February 2013 as Black History Month, urges all
27 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
28 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
29 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and
30 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
31 and be it further

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