

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 9, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

January 5, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 6, as amended, Jones-Sawyer. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2015 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 2015, which has been proclaimed as Black
11 History Month; and

12 WHEREAS, There is even greater cause for a reverent
13 celebration in 2015 as Americans reflect on the significance of the
14 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, and the 50th anniversary
15 of the Selma to Montgomery Marches or “Bloody Sunday”; and

16 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
17 inspirational stories of great men and noble women whose actions,
18 words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed
19 to the success and prosperity of the United States; 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, the Battle of Rhode Island
33 on August 29, 1775, the battles of Ticonderoga, White Plains,
34 Bennington, Brandywine, Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker
35 Hill, and other revolutionary war battles; the War of 1812,
36 including the Battle of New Orleans; the Civil War, the
37 Spanish-American War; World Wars I and II, Korea, and the
38 Vietnam War; and

39 WHEREAS, In spite of the African slave trade, many Africans
40 and African Americans continued to move forward in society;

1 during the Reconstruction period, two African Americans served
2 in the United States Senate and 14 sat in the House of
3 Representatives; and

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

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

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

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

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
32 recognizing February 2015 as Black History Month, urges all
33 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
34 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
35 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and
36 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
37 and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O