

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 108

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Carter, Davis, Hall, and
Swanson)
(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

January 25, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 108, as introduced, Bradford. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2010 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, to encourage
5 further research, publishing, and celebrations regarding the untold
6 stories of African American heritage; and
7 WHEREAS, The history of African Americans in the United
8 States is unique and vibrant, and it is appropriate to celebrate this
9 history during the month of February 2010, which has been
10 proclaimed as Black History Month; and

1 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
2 inspirational stories of great African American men and women
3 whose actions, words, and achievements have united Americans
4 and contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Liber Pontificalis (The Book of
7 Pontiffs), the Catholic Church had three popes who were from
8 Africa: Saint Victor I (186–98), Saint Miltiades (311–14), and
9 Saint Gelasius I (492–96); and

10 WHEREAS, The slave trade was a tragic era in African history
11 and began in the American colonies in 1619 when the first slaves
12 arrived in Jamestown, Virginia. During the course of the slave
13 trade, an estimated 50 million African men, women, and children
14 were taken from their native continent and only about 15 million
15 arrived safely to a new home. The others lost their lives in transit
16 during the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean; and

17 WHEREAS, Crispus Attucks, a Black man, on March 5, 1770,
18 was the first of five people killed by British troops in the Boston
19 Massacre in Boston, Massachusetts, which helped spark the
20 rebellion in some of the British American colonies, culminating
21 in the American Revolution freeing America from British rule.
22 African Americans also fought in numerous revolutionary war
23 battles including the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April
24 1775, Ticonderoga, White Plains, Bennington, Brandywine,
25 Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker Hill, and the Battle of
26 Rhode Island on August 29, 1775. They fought in the War of 1812,
27 including, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, the
28 Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam,
29 the Gulf War (Desert Storm), Iraq, and Afghanistan; and

30 WHEREAS, In spite of the institution of slavery, African
31 Americans continued to serve society honorably during the
32 Reconstruction period by serving in the United States Senate and
33 the House of Representatives. They have been heroes, leaders, and
34 pioneers in the areas of science, medicine, business, education,
35 government, and social justice movements; and

36 WHEREAS, African Americans have also made significant
37 contributions as inventors, inventing and improving items such as
38 the air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood
39 plasma bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, electric light bulb,
40 elevator, fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee,

1 horseshoe, lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, locks, refrigerating
2 apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone transmitter,
3 thermostat control, traffic signal, and typewriter; and

4 WHEREAS, A number of these brave and talented individuals,
5 including Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver,
6 Matthew Hansen, Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Drew, Jackie
7 Robinson, Jesse Owens, Curt Flood, Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin
8 Luther King, Jr., and President Barack Obama, are noted and
9 prominently imbedded in American history; and

10 WHEREAS, The African American community nationwide
11 continues to enrich and contribute to America's welfare by
12 promoting equality and justice for all; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
15 recognizing February 2010 as Black History Month, urges all
16 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
17 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
18 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and
19 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
20 and be it further

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