



Representative Andi Story

Alaska State Legislature

House District 34

Mendenhall Valley
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Out the road

Co-Chair
House Education
Committee

Member
House State Affairs

Member
House Transportation

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 72

Black History Month

"An Act establishing the month of February as Black History Month."

House Bill 72 establishes February as Black History Month. It celebrates and honors the contributions African-Americans have made to Alaska and the United States.

In recent years, the legislature has offered many resolutions recognizing Black History Month for each individual year. HB 72 and its companion, SB 40, would enshrine the recognition into statute. With passage of HB 72, Alaska joins other states and nations that have adopted Black History Month.

HB 72 celebrates the many accomplishments, both recognized and forgotten, of African-Americans and their contributions to Alaskan communities. The recognition of Black History Month is necessary to acknowledge and promote the continued work of African-Americans who have contributed to Alaska's workforce, economic development, culture, and community.

Through the bill, the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the contributions of Anchorage School Board member and Alaska State Senator Bettye Davis, the 3,000 African-American soldiers who helped build the Alaska Highway, community leader and Juneau Assembly member Rosalee Walker, attorney and scholar Mahala Ashley Dickerson, community service leader and Reverend Alonzo Patterson, among many others.

As a state, we recognize the unique contributions of African-American people as a whole, and of individual African-Americans for their role in making the state what it is today. Thank you for your support of HB 72.