

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY SENATORS BEGICH, Wilson, Gardner, Wielechowski, Olson, Egan, MacKinnon, Costello, Bishop, Stevens, Kelly, Hughes, Meyer**

**Introduced: 2/1/17**

**Referred: Education, State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Proclaiming February 2017 as Black History Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1926, a week honoring black history was first established by Dr.  
4 Carter G. Woodson to coincide with the birth week shared by President Abraham Lincoln and  
5 abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass; and

6 **WHEREAS** Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us .  
7 . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say  
8 to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy'"; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1976, in honor of the nation's bicentennial, President Gerald R. Ford  
10 expanded the celebration of Black History Week to Black History Month; and

11 **WHEREAS** African Americans are woven into the fabric of this nation and contribute  
12 to the attributes that make the nation strong and just, despite the nation's history of their  
13 enslavement and unjust treatment; and

14 **WHEREAS** the contributions African Americans have made to building the State of  
15 Alaska--from the hundreds of members of Company L, 24th Infantry, United States Army,  
16 who were stationed at Dyea and Skagway during the Gold Rush, to the engineers who carved

1 the Alaska-Canada (ALCAN) Highway through remote and desolate land--often go  
2 unrecognized; and

3 **WHEREAS** Americans from all walks of life continue hopefully and confidently to  
4 strive to achieve a more perfect and equitable union, even when we fall short;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate proclaims February 2017 as Black History  
6 Month.