

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2018

Source
SR 8

Senate
Resolve No.
9



Proclaiming February 2018 as Black History Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS we recognize the strength and value of our diversity as a state and nation;
and

WHEREAS the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln inspired Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the "Father of Black History," to establish Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month; and

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

WHEREAS the pivotal role African Americans have played in building this great state has been uncelebrated for too long; and

WHEREAS many African American residents have helped shape our state's destiny, including Blanche McSmith, who, in 1959, after leading efforts to advance civil rights in the period leading up to statehood, was appointed the first African American to serve in the Alaska House of Representatives, where she fought tirelessly to end housing and employment

discrimination; and

WHEREAS Mahala Ashley Dickerson, after moving to Alaska to homestead with her family, became the state's first African American attorney in 1959 and continued to fight for equal rights for all into her 90s; and

WHEREAS our nation was founded on the principle that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

WHEREAS we have struggled through slavery, segregation, and racial injustice toward this ideal and are still fighting today to fulfill the promise of those words;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate proclaims February 2018 as Black History Month.