

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1978

Source

HCR 96

Legislative
Resolve No.

3



Relating to designating February 12 - 18, 1978 as Black History Week.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, in recognition of the significant role that Black men and women have played in the history of the United States, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the leading scholar of American Negro history, in 1926, proposed that the second week in February be designated as Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS this week encompasses the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12), 16th President of the United States and author of the Emancipation Proclamation; Frederick Douglass (February 14), one of the nation's earliest Black scholars, lecturers and writers as well as one of its first and most outspoken Abolitionists; and Founders' Day of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (February 12, 1909); and

WHEREAS the marking of this week affords all Alaskans an opportunity to honor the contributions of Black men and women in every field of endeavor in Alaska: the late Representative Willard Bowman of Anchorage, former Representatives Joshua Wright (the first Black dentist in Alaska) of Anchorage, Selwyn Carroll of Fairbanks, and Blanche McSmith of Anchorage (the first Black legislator in Alaska); John Alexander, former Commissioner of Labor, and other notable Blacks: George Anderson, Editor of "Alaska Spotlight", the first Black newspaper in the state; such early Alaska prospectors for gold as Frank Cody and Frank Gooden; the first Black school principals in this state -- Willis Williams in Juneau and Etheldra Jordan Davis in Anchorage; and the first Black attorney in Alaska, William Waddelton, as early as 1900; and

WHEREAS celebrations of Black History Week will be presented throughout Alaska and the Nation;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that in tribute to the contribution made to "the Great Land" by these distinguished Black Americans, as well as all Blacks residing in Alaska, the Governor is respectfully requested to designate February 12 - 18, 1978, as Black History Week.