

Introduced: 2/6/78
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY RUDD

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to designating February 12 - 18,
6 1978 as Black History Week.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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