

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jordan,  
Simmons, Walls, Dawkins, Williamson, Harden,  
Thomas, Butler, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 575

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS NATIONAL  
2 "BLACK HISTORY MONTH."

3 WHEREAS, February may be the shortest month of the year, but  
4 its days are packed with important anniversaries and remembrances,  
5 particularly for African-Americans from the birthday of Frederick  
6 Douglass on February 14, 1817, to Malcolm X's assassination on  
7 February 21, 1965, and Nelson Mandela's release from prison on  
8 February 11, 1990; and

9 WHEREAS, within those four short weeks are the anniversaries  
10 of the Montgomery bus boycott arrests (February 22, 1956), the  
11 ratification of the 15th Amendment guaranteeing that race would  
12 not prevent a man from voting (February 3, 1870), the Greensboro,  
13 North Carolina, Woolworth lunch counter sit-in (February 1, 1960),  
14 Abraham Lincoln's approval of the 13th Amendment abolishing  
15 slavery (February 1, 1865) and opera star Marian Anderson's  
16 birthday (February 27, 1897); and

17 WHEREAS, celebrations of African-American heritage and  
18 achievement began in 1926, launched by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and  
19 others. The original week-long observance became a month in 1976,  
20 a time to mark the considerable contributions of African-Americans  
21 to the fabric of the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, African-American Firsts in Government include: the  
23 first African-American U.S. Senator, Hiram Revels, was from  
24 Mississippi serving from February 25, 1870, to March 4, 1971,  
25 during Reconstruction; and

26 WHEREAS, African-American culture is both part of and  
27 distinct from American culture. From their earliest presence in

28 North America African-Americans have contributed literature, art,  
29 agricultural skills, foods, clothing styles, music, and language  
30 to American culture; and

31 WHEREAS, we join all residents of the State of Mississippi in  
32 recognizing this important celebration of African-American  
33 heritage and achievement in America and in the State of  
34 Mississippi:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
36 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
37 we do hereby recognize February as National "Black History Month"  
38 and encourage all schools and communities in the State of  
39 Mississippi to participate in Black History Month events.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be made  
41 available to the Capitol Press Corps.