

Black history month

The USA is a nation of change makers, a nation of those who stand for **equality and freedom**. And each February during Black History Month, the country honors the black Americans, standing for their **dreams and rights**, and making a difference for us all.

Originally founded as "Negro History Week" in 1926 by black American historian and author Carter G. Woodson, it recognized the contributions of African Americans to the country and fostered a better understanding of the black American experience. Indeed, Woodson believed that young African Americans in the early 20th century were not being taught enough of their own heritage, and the **achievements** of their ancestors.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford issued the first African-American History Month proclamation, calling upon the American people to celebrate the event each February, enabling the people to "seize the **opportunity** to honor the too-often neglected **accomplishments** of black Americans in every area of **endeavor** throughout our history."

Since 1986 "National Black (Afro-American) History Month" has lived as a time set aside by law to recognize the contributions of African-Americans to our nation.

In 2016, Barack Obama, the nation's first African American president, made his last proclamation in honor of Woodson's initiative, now recognized as one of the nation's oldest organized celebrations of history. "As we mark the 40th year of National African American History Month, let us reflect on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans, and let us resolve to continue our march toward a day when every person knows the unalienable rights to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**."

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