



State of Missouri
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans;
and

WHEREAS, it is a time to commemorate the many and varied contributions of African Americans to the history and culture of this state, nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, focusing attention upon the heritage of people of African descent will foster understanding, appreciation, and pride in the diversity of our society and in the cultural, social, and historical forces that shape the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme; and

WHEREAS, the Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Black History Month Planning Committee, and other campus, local, state, and national organizations will be sponsoring activities to encourage an appreciation of African American history.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim February, 2020 to be

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 27th day of February, 2020.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE