



*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 2023 theme, "Strengthening Communities for the Future; Black History in the Making," is in honor of the celebration of achievements made by black Americans and a time to reflect on the central roles of African Americans in U.S. history; 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 2023, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE