

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

National Black History Month

Whereas, in 1776, the United States of America was imagined, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, as a new nation dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

Whereas, on November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, in reference to the Declaration of Independence, stated, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal; and

Whereas, America since 1976 celebrates the month of February each year as Black History Month or National African American History Month; and

Whereas, the Orange County Department of Education and Board of Education recognizes the many contributions of African Americans to our country, and reinforce our commitment to be a Nation of opportunity and hope for every citizen; and

Whereas, the story of African Americans is one of resilience and perseverance. It traces a people who refused to accept the circumstances under which they arrived on these shores, and it chronicles the generations who fought for an America that truly reflects the ideals enshrined in our nation's founding documents. We celebrate the rich legacy of African Americans and honor the remarkable contributions they have made to perfecting our Union; and

Whereas, in the centuries since African Americans first arrived on America's shores, they have known the darkness and oppression of slavery, the hope of progress, and the triumph of the American Dream. African American history is an essential thread of the American narrative that traces our Nation's enduring struggle to perfect itself; and

Whereas, throughout our history, African Americans have courageously worn our Nation's uniform while defending peace and liberty around the globe. American patriots like Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, and other civil rights leaders have broken down racial barriers and inspired our Nation to make good on the promise of equal justice under law; and

Whereas, every American can draw strength from the story of hard-won progress, which not only defines the African-American experience, but also lies at the heart of our Nation as a whole. This story affirms that freedom is a gift from God, but it must be secured by His people here on earth. It inspires a new generation of leaders, and it teaches us all that when Americans come together in common purpose, we can right the wrongs of history and make our world anew; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Orange County Board of Education and Department of Education do hereby proclaim February 2015 as National African American History Month. We call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions of African Americans that have made our Nation great.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of February, in the year of our Lord, two thousand fifteen.



Dr. Ken L. Williams, President
Orange County Board of Education