

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 134

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 1997

By Assemblyman T. SMITH

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** declaring the month of February 1997 as "Black
2 History Month" in the State of New Jersey in recognition of the
3 accomplishments of Black Americans and their contributions to the history
4 of this nation and State.
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- 6 **WHEREAS**, The history of New Jersey and the history of our nation are
7 inextricably linked to the heritage of our country's Black Americans; and
8 **WHEREAS**, In the beginning of our nation's history, the majority of Black
9 Americans lived as slaves; yet many, such as Crispus Attucks, participated
10 in the struggle for American independence, sacrificing their lives in order to
11 build a society based upon the ideals of liberty, prosperity and self-
12 government; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, The history of Black Americans is the story of extraordinary
14 individuals whose achievements have set examples for the citizens of all
15 races; of freedom fighters such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman,
16 who worked to abolish slavery; of scientists and innovators such as George
17 Washington Carver and Elijah McCoy, whose inventions and innovations
18 contributed immeasurably to the scientific progress and industrial success
19 of this nation; and of social reformers such as Mary McCleod Bethune,
20 W.E.B. DuBois, and Martin Luther King, who dedicated his life and
21 inspired others to create a nation where all people are treated as equals;
22 and
- 23 **WHEREAS**, The history of New Jersey has been enriched by the shining
24 examples of Black New Jerseyans such as Paul Robeson, whose
25 intellectual, musical and athletic achievements set the highest standards for
26 people of all races, and William "Count" Basie, whose musical genius
27 greatly enriched American music; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, While the history of Black Americans is also the story of countless
29 nameless heroes brought to our shores who endured lives of bondage and
30 oppression, the deprivation of their civil rights, and the ravages of bigotry
31 and racism, it is a history for which the most glorious chapters have yet to
32 be written as Black Americans contribute in full measure to the fulfillment
33 of the American promise; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The people of New Jersey and this nation should study black
2 history, so that they may learn from its stories of heroism, struggle, and
3 achievement; now, therefore,
4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*
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7 1. This House hereby declares the month of February 1997 to be "Black
8 History Month" in the State of New Jersey, and urges all citizens of this State
9 to participate appropriately in its observance.
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11 2. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
12 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk, shall be transmitted to the
13 New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP.
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16 STATEMENT
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18 This resolution declares February 1997 as "Black History Month" in New
19 Jersey and urges all citizens to participate appropriately in its observance.
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24 _____
Declares February 1997 as "Black History Month."