



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, during the month of February, the Empire State celebrates Black History Month, which offers an opportunity to recognize the struggle for freedom and equality that has transcended generations of Americans and produced among the greatest leaders who continue to shine as examples of strength, wisdom, and courage for us all; and

Whereas, this year's Black History Month observance centers on the theme, "Civil Rights in America," highlighting an important milestone in the movement to achieve true equality for all people in the United States – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act – the most far-reaching civil rights legislation since Reconstruction and a benchmark in American history which continues to resonate across our nation today; and

Whereas, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, and women; it ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, at the workplace, and by facilities that served the general public, paving the way for future anti-discrimination legislation; and

Whereas, the crusade for equality and justice has been long and difficult, and we are forever inspired by the vision, leadership, and personal sacrifice of the courageous individuals who have dared to pursue a dream and make a difference in the lives of others; and

Whereas, we take this opportunity to celebrate those who have forged the path to freedom, helped preserve our nation and its constitution, fought tirelessly for true equality for all people, and did so with strength, conviction, and commitment to the ideals of justice;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2014 as

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day of February in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor