



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State proudly joins in observances that are relevant to the social, cultural, and political history of our state and nation and, each February, we celebrate Black History Month and pay tribute to the many important and groundbreaking contributions made by the Black community and their influence and impact on all areas of life in our state and nation; and

Whereas, the Black experience in this nation is singularly unique and provides a foundation of unity upon which the Black community stands; we appreciate institutions that advance Black history and heritage by serving as resources of education and knowledge for younger generations, and forces of change and progress for all of society; and

Whereas, this year's Black History Month celebrates the theme "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture" to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the *Association for the Study of African American Life and History* (ASALH) in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the noted historian, author, journalist, and founder of Black History Month; and

Whereas, born in Virginia on December 19, 1875 to former slaves, Carter G. Woodson was a dedicated scholar who recognized the importance of knowledge and education in life; in response to the scarceness of resources of information about the Black community and its accomplishments, Dr. Woodson founded the ASALH to carry out his vision and belief that historical truth would correct inaccuracies and misconceptions regarding Black history and usher in a new era of equality, opportunity, and racial democracy; in 1926, Dr. Woodson established Negro History Week and, fifty years later in 1976, the week became the current month-long celebration that is supported nationally and internationally; and

Whereas, we honor and respect the legacy of Carter G. Woodson as the "Father of Black History" and join in this year's observance of Black History Month to advance the work of this visionary pioneer by celebrating the influential role of the Black community, by broadening our understanding of Black history, and by teaching others about those who broke past social, economic, and political barriers to excel in every area of endeavor, ever appreciative of their contributions to American life; and

Whereas, we recognize that, throughout history, the Black community has had a profound impact upon our state and contributed in significant ways to the growth and development of New York in all areas; from helping to shape our social, cultural, and political landscape, to realizing major accomplishments in science, technology, business, education, sports, and the arts, the Black community continues to be integral to New York State's role of global leadership, and we acknowledge those who have been forces for meaningful change and progress in our state and in our lives;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2015 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 thirtieth day of January in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor