



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State are proud to join in celebrating observances that are meaningful to the history of our state and nation and, during the month of February 2016, we come together for the commemoration of Black History Month, as this occasion offers us the opportunity to pay tribute to the unique, diverse, and groundbreaking contributions of the African American community to all areas of life in our great state and nation; and

Whereas, this year's Black History Month centers on the theme, "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories," highlighting places of social and cultural importance where momentous events in our nation's history took place – from cities where Africans disembarked from slave ships, to the battlefields where their descendants fought for freedom, to Historically Black colleges and universities where many thrived through education, to the communities and neighborhoods they settled in and laid roots – the imprint of Black Americans is deeply embedded in the narrative of the American past; and

Whereas, we honor those Black Americans who forged new paths, leaving an historic legacy of accomplishment visible in the places they lived, worked, learned, and sought refuge; we value these meaningful landmarks, historical sites, and institutions that advance Black history and heritage by serving as resources of education and knowledge for younger generations; and

Whereas, New York State is proud of its many landmarks and institutions that are important symbols of Black heritage, Civil Rights history, and the legacy of Black Americans who have impacted, changed, and contributed to our state and nation; a walk along New York's "Path Through History" showcases these milestone places, such as the African Burial Ground, the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, the Harriet Tubman Home, the John Brown Farm and Gravesite, and the world-famous Apollo Theater – Harlem's legendary showplace for music, dance, and live theatrical entertainment; and

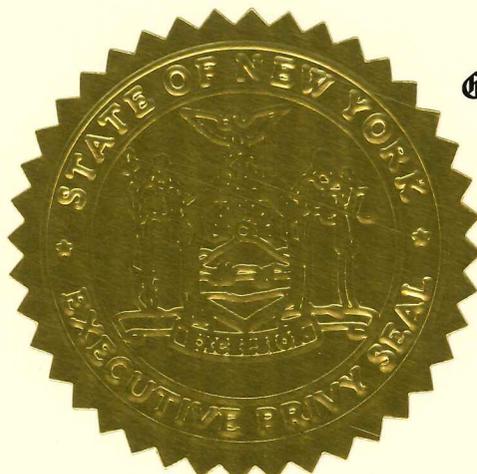
Whereas, over history, Black Americans have improved the world through their of strength, courage, leadership, and vision; we honor those who courageously led the early fight for freedom, those crusaders of the last century who broke barriers to improve the lives of others, and those who today excel in every area of endeavor, making valuable contributions as members of all professions and fields of study – art and culture, law and literature, science and technology, business, politics, and sports; and

Whereas, the Black community remains a force of change and progress for all society and continues to have a profound impact upon New York State, contributing significantly to our social, cultural, and political landscape; the history of Black Americans is an enduring foundation upon which our entire country stands and an inspiration to all of us, as their success reflects the steadfast spirit and pride of Black America;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2016 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth day of January in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

Walter J. Munkon
Secretary to the Governor