

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4604, by Representative Kraft

1 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan issued the Presidential
2 Proclamation 5443 which declared "the foremost purpose of Black
3 History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for
4 freedom and equal opportunity." It also states that this month is a
5 time "to celebrate the many achievements of African Americans in
6 every field from science and the arts to politics and religion."; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a movement rooted in
8 love, faith, and purpose to promote a nation where children "will not
9 be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their
10 character"; and

11 WHEREAS, The desire to succeed and contribute to America caused
12 Black Americans to rise above racial hostility, Jim Crow Laws, and
13 the remnants of other economic and social injustices; and

14 WHEREAS, Marilyn Strickland became the first Black woman to
15 represent the State of Washington at the federal level in the United
16 States House of Representatives, and she is one of the first Korean
17 American women to be elected to Congress in its 230 year history; and

18 WHEREAS, G. Helen Whitener is the first Black woman to serve on
19 the Washington State Supreme Court, the fourth immigrant-born
20 Justice; and

21 WHEREAS, We also recognize the accomplishments attained by
22 political leaders such as George Washington Bush, a Black Pioneer,
23 and one of the earliest permanent American settlers in the Washington

1 Territory in 1845, William Owen Bush, the first Black person to serve
2 in the legislature in 1889, John H. Ryan, the only Black American to
3 serve in the legislature under three different parties (Farm-Labor,
4 Republican, and Democrat), John Lewis, Civil Rights leader and United
5 States Congressman, and Barack Obama, the first Black President of
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The list of contributions by other Black Americans to
8 the socioeconomic and cultural fabric of Washington State is long,
9 and includes the writings of Frederick Douglass, Booker T.
10 Washington, Ralph Ellison, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison; and

11 WHEREAS, Scientific achievements include the inventions of George
12 Washington Carver and the three NASA workers—Katherine Goble, Mary
13 Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan—whose calculations helped put astronauts
14 on the moon; and

15 WHEREAS, Black soldiers helped unite the military and the nation,
16 from formerly enslaved people fighting in the Civil War to the
17 Tuskegee Airmen who helped win World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, Warriors for justice and equality include Harriet
19 Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer, Thurgood Marshall, and
20 Rosa Parks;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
22 celebrate Black History Month and recognize the legacy and
23 innumerable contributions of Black Americans to the lives of
24 Washingtonians, in February and throughout the whole year.

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