



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrates the achievements of African Americans, who have been instrumental in shaping the character, culture, and economic life of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, first launched “Negro History Week” in 1926, and is widely regarded as the father of Black History; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 the informal expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the United States government; President Gerald Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”; and

WHEREAS, countless African American activists, military and political leaders, educators, artists, and more have helped develop North Carolina’s heritage and cultural landscape; their work and accomplishments are commemorated by museums, historical sites, and annual festivals across our state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to the largest number of four-year, degree-granting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the nation; our ten HBCUs have a rich heritage steeped in tradition, activism, and service dating back to the foundation of Shaw University in 1865; and

WHEREAS, African American military service has deep roots in our state; the 1st North Carolina Colored Volunteers regiment joined the Union Army in 1863, and the first African American recruits to serve in the United States Marine Corps were trained at Montford Point in Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, African American activists in North Carolina launched the nation’s Sit-In Movement in Greensboro and assembled the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Raleigh; in our rural Eastern and Western regions, activists led the Edenton Movement demonstrations and organized the Asheville Student Committee on Racial Equality; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has designated February 2019 as Black History Month to recognize the many African American individuals, past and present, who have added to all aspects of life in North Carolina; with endless gratitude, we honor their accomplishments and sacrifices, and we will continue to celebrate their achievements and work to preserve their contributions as part of the rich fabric of our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February, 2019, as “**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twelfth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.