

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025

SR 9

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5 By: Senator F. Love

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF  
10 FEBRUARY 2025.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING  
15 THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025.

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17 WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, truly significant  
18 African American contributions to social growth, the economy, the military,  
19 the sciences, and the arts of this great nation have all too often been  
20 ignored; and

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22 WHEREAS, in recognition of this oversight, Americans began recognizing  
23 "Negro History Week" in 1926, the predecessor to "Black History Month", which  
24 has been celebrated annually since 1976 and was inspired by the birthdays of  
25 Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

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27 WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month and the study of  
28 African American history is part of the legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson; and

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30 WHEREAS, the progress of African Americans in the nation and in the  
31 State of Arkansas has been marked with both the tragedy of social  
32 inequalities and the triumph of group achievements; and

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34 WHEREAS, although African Americans have participated in every United  
35 States war, the battle for the integration of the United States Armed Forces  
36 and for recognition of the accomplishments of African American soldiers has



1 been a slow process; and

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3 WHEREAS, not until after World War II did the United States Armed  
4 Forces become integrated under a 1948 executive order by President Harry S.  
5 Truman; and

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7 WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes commonly celebrated individuals  
8 such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Thurgood  
9 Marshall, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and the Little Rock Nine, just to name  
10 a few, but there are lesser-known but equally impactful individuals who we  
11 should educate ourselves on such as Crispus Attucks, William Harvey Carney,  
12 the Greensboro Four, Constance Baker Motley, and a plethora of other  
13 historical giants; and

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15 WHEREAS, Dorothy McFadden Hoover of Hope, Arkansas, was one of the  
16 National Aeronautics and Space Administration's human computers. As a  
17 physicist and mathematician, one of her greatest achievements in aeronautical  
18 research was the development of the "thin sweptback tapered wing," which  
19 revolutionized flight; and

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21 WHEREAS, Maya Angelou grew up in Stamps, Arkansas, and was a renowned  
22 author and poet. Ms. Angelou was one (1) of the first African American women  
23 to have a screenplay produced as a feature film. Ms. Angelou's poem, "On the  
24 Pulse of the Morning", was delivered at President William Jefferson "Bill"  
25 Clinton's inauguration, and she authored the distinguished book, "I Know Why  
26 the Caged Bird Sings"; and

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28 WHEREAS, Revoyda Frierson is a native of Hope, Arkansas. She grew to  
29 fame as Ketty Lester, a singer and actress. Ms. Frierson's recording "Love  
30 Letters" achieved number five (5) on the popular music charts, and she is  
31 best known for her role as Hester on "Little House on the Prairie"; and

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33 WHEREAS, John H. Johnson was a native of Arkansas City, Arkansas. Mr.  
34 Johnson's family moved to Chicago because there was no high school for  
35 African Americans in his hometown. Mr. Johnson was regarded as the most  
36 influential African American publisher in American history, and his

1 publications included Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, and the Negro Digest; and

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3 WHEREAS, Raye Montague was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms.

4 Montague's work revolutionized the way the United States Navy designed ships

5 by developing a computer program that created rough drafts of ship

6 specifications that allowed the United States Navy to decrease the time it

7 took to build a ship's draft design from two (2) years to eighteen (18) hours

8 and twenty-six (26) minutes,

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10 NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

12 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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14 THAT the Senate celebrate Black History Month during February 2025 and

15 recognize and applaud the sacrifices and myriad contributions made by African

16 Americans throughout the history of this great state and nation.

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