

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, Black History Month, previously known as Negro History Week, was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and first celebrated on February 1, 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1976, it has become a nationally recognized month-long celebration held to acknowledge and pay tribute to the contributions made by African Americans to the history of our country that for years were omitted by society and history books; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month seeks to emphasize Black History is American History; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have helped shape our nation's identity and contributed greatly to the success of our country through invaluable contributions in many professions and fields including education, law, government, sports, the arts and sciences, and the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American community has endured decades of struggle to be recognized as equal among our fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American community has persevered through hate and bigotry to stand up for their rights and the basic rights we are all entitled to – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of February our nation takes pause to reflect on the injustices and struggles fought and overcome by African Americans throughout our nation's history, and to pay tribute to the battles they have fought in the name of equality;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim February 2019 as

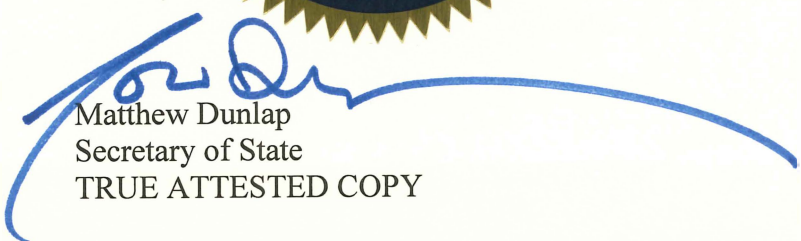
**Black History Month**

in Maine, and I encourage all Maine citizens to recognize the continued work we all must do to realize racial and social justice for African Americans, and honor the continuing legacy African Americans have made throughout our shared history.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twelfth day of February Two Thousand Nineteen

  
Janet T. Mills  
Governor

  
Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY