

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former enslaved persons, founded the Association for the Study of the Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Exodusters migrated from the South and settled approximately twenty Kansas towns; they brought with them the desire for economic opportunities, freedom from oppression and harassment, and freedom to create their own lives; these settlers played an important role in settling the State of Kansas, as well as the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Kansas has a time-honored legacy in our nation's quest toward freedom and equality, which has helped to shape our country into a symbol of freedom and prosperity throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1950, families from Topeka, Kansas, joined families from three other states, Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia, in what is now the historic landmark case, Oliver L. Brown, et al. vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, et al.; and

WHEREAS, the Brown decision laid a foundation of equal rights and opportunities for all. It demonstrated that educational opportunity and achievement are core values and recognized that education can be a great equalizer among people of different races, classes, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas recognizes the significant contributions and huge advances African Americans have made and continue to make in the State of Kansas and the world, in such areas as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics and human rights. We see the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim February 11, 2021 as the start of Kansas Black Legislative Month at the Capitol, and February as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

throughout the State of Kansas and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 4th day of
February, A.D. 2021

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

[Signature]
Secretary of State

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary of State