



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

In Texas, we embrace our diversity. But we also understand that we share a unique culture, shaped by people of all races, nationalities, religions and backgrounds who have come here seeking hope and opportunity. In particular, African-Americans have made tremendous contributions to our society — contributions that are quintessentially Texan.

The Buffalo Soldiers, regiments of African-Americans in the post-Civil War U.S. Army, overcame harsh conditions and prejudice to tame the Texas frontier, serving our nation with distinction. Bessie Coleman grew up in Atlanta, Texas, and inspired people all over the world, shattering long-held stereotypes as the first African-American to become a pilot. Barbara Jordan rose from humble beginnings in Houston to become the first African-American state senator in Texas in more than 75 years and a leader of the civil rights movement. And Wallace Jefferson, raised in San Antonio, twice made history — as the first African-American justice on the Texas Supreme Court and the court's first African-American chief justice.

In a state renowned for its varied and robust heritage, there is simply not a facet of life that has not been shaped in some way by the contributions of African-Americans.

Each year, February is designated African-American History Month to remember and celebrate these many contributions. At this time, I encourage all Texans to take pride in the strength that diversity brings to our great state and nation.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 2016 to be

African-American History Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
27th day of January, 2016.


Governor of Texas