



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

As our state and nation continue to be shaped by the diversity of our citizens, it is vital that we recognize the different races, nationalities, and backgrounds that have all played an important role in the rich history of this land we love. In particular, it is important to embrace the innumerable contributions made by African-Americans to our society. Having faced the trials of slavery, segregation, oppression, and the deep-rooted adversity which threatened their demands for equality and change, the achievements and perspectives of African-Americans are imbued with a unique strength and resilience that are highly respected and greatly valued in the Lone Star State.

A legacy of excellence runs throughout African-American history in Texas. In the aftermath of a nation reeling from the scars inflicted by the American Civil War, cavalry regiments of African-Americans—known as Buffalo Soldiers—served our nation with distinction, overcoming both harsh conditions and prejudice to help chart the Texas frontier. Bessie Coleman was born to a family of sharecroppers in Atlanta, Texas, and would inspire people all over the world by shattering long-held stereotypes as the first African-American to earn a pilot license. Barbara Jordan rose from humble beginnings in Houston to become a leader of the civil rights movement, the first African-American state senator in Texas since Reconstruction, and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Wallace Jefferson, of San Antonio, twice made history as the first African-American justice on the Texas Supreme Court and later as the court's first African-American chief justice. American heroes and Texas legend Doris (Dorie) Miller and Richard Overton stand out among the best and brightest of America's greatest generation who selflessly served their country in World War II: Miller received the Navy Cross for his heroic actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Overton became the longest-living veteran of the war. These outstanding men and women, along with countless other members of the African-American community, have exemplified the indomitable spirit that truly represents the very best of the Lone Star State.

From the founding of Texas up to the present day, 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 dedicated as Black History Month to remember and learn from the tribulations faced by the African-American community, while also celebrating their many invaluable accomplishments. At this time, I encourage all Texans to take pride in and discover more about the strength that stems from our diversity.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 2022 to be

Black History Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
1st day of February, 2022.


Governor of Texas