



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.R. 73-42

The Student Senate
73rd Session
Texas A&M University

Black History Month Resolution

"A resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month at Texas A&M University"


Introduced By: Erica Pauls, Matthew Gaines Society President
Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion, Off Campus Caucus
Matthew B. Francis Jr, Off Campus Caucus
Dang Dang, Off Campus Caucus
David Garcia, Off Campus Caucus
Megha Viswanath, Off Campus Caucus

Sponsored By: Corniyah Bradley, Off Campus Caucus
Aariana Myles, Off Campus Caucus
Tiffany Ufodiana, Freshman Caucus
Dalmath Kandolo, Off Campus Caucus

Action Taken:

PASSED

Certified By:


Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Whereas(1): In 1926, Carter G. Woodson, now known as the “Father of Black History”, initiated the first “Negro History Week” on February 7th to celebrate and raise awareness of Black history¹, which eventually turned into a month long celebration; and,

Whereas(2): In February 1976, President Gerald R. Ford declared February as Black History month and urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”²; and,

¹

<https://today.tamu.edu/2021/02/08/the-origins-of-black-history-month/#:~:text=In%201926%2C%20Woodson%20in%20initiated%20the%20was%20renamed%20Black%20History%20Month.>


² <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>



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Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(3):** Since then, the month of February is observed as Black History Month, and is used to remember the important contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation's history; and,
- Whereas (4):** In 1963, Texas A&M University admitted its first Black students, under the leadership of President Earl Rudder³; and,
- Whereas (5)** Since then, there have been many Black students who have broken barriers and opened doors for current students, such as Bill Mahomes '69 as the first black student to graduate from the Corp of Cadets, Fred McClure '76 as the first Black Student Body President, Ronnie McDonald '93 as the first Black Yell Leader, and Marquis Alexander '13 as the first Black Corps Commander⁴; and,
- Whereas(6):** Texas A&M University has produced many notable Black/African American former students such as Judge Willie E. B. Blackmon, Dr. Tanya Dugat Wickliff, Will Hurd, and many more; and,
- Whereas(7):** There have been a plethora of Black/African Americans who have also made great contributions to this university which includes, Dr. Tonya Driver, Jimmy Williams, and Senator Matthew Gaines; and,
- Whereas (8):** In the summer of 2020, the tragic death of George Floyd sparked a national movement to address racial inequality, which President Micheal K. Young addressed by stating “as a former student at Texas A&M-Kingsville, Mr. Floyd was not only a member of the Texas A&M System family, but also a member of our human family. You answered “here” on his behalf, and we all know how much that means.”, alongside stating that “we at Texas A&M — as members of one of the largest academic communities in the United States — have an opportunity to do our part, to act, to address the systemic racism and violence that is plaguing our nation”⁵; and,

³

<https://today.tamu.edu/2013/08/27/texas-am-to-commemorate-50th-anniversary-of-admission-of-women-minority-inclusiveness/>

⁴ <https://today.tamu.edu/2020/01/31/texas-am-celebrates-black-history-and-achievement/>

⁵

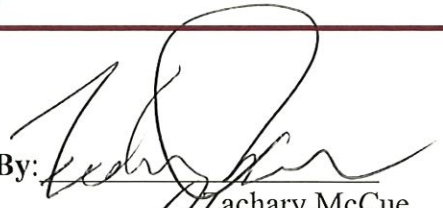
https://president.tamu.edu/messages/a-message-to-our-aggie-community.html?_ga=2.257511755.1773703189.1612732312-1835483157.1570819485



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Whereas (9): Following this, Texas A&M University has taken active to steps to address these matters by the creation of the Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion⁶, the release of the Stronger Together Report⁷, the Board of Regents' approved actions⁸ and the proposed new leaders executing these actions⁹; and,

Whereas (10): As of Fall 2020¹⁰, the total Black population at Texas A&M University comprises of 3.34%; and,

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(1): The 73rd Session of the Texas A&M Student Senate officially recognizes the month of February as Black History Month; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(2): The 73rd Session of the Texas A&M Student Senate would like to extend an encouraging gesture to the Aggies who identify as Black, showcasing that despite our differences, we can still be "as true to each other as Aggies can be"; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(3): The 73rd Session of the Texas A&M Student Senate celebrates all the accomplishments and successes of the Black community throughout history and those that have positively made an impact on this university; and,

⁶ <https://president.tamu.edu/committees-task-forces/commission-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/index.html>

⁷

https://president.tamu.edu/committees-task-forces/commission-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/documents/CDEI_Final_Report_2021.pdf

⁸ https://www.tamus.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/01-25-2021_BOR_Statement_on_Diversity.pdf

⁹ <https://president.tamu.edu/messages/stronger-together.html>


¹⁰ <https://accountability.tamu.edu/All-Metrics/Mixed-Metrics/Student-Demographics>



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Let it be
Further

Resolved(4): That the Texas A&M Student Senate extends support to all Texas A&M Black/African American organizations that are cultivating cultural and contextual intelligence in the thousands of Aggies, developing the visionary global leaders of tomorrow, and actively leading by example in this university with inclusiveness and integration; and,

Let it be
Further

Resolved (5): The 73rd Session of Texas A&M Student Senate appreciates the Department of Multicultural Services' effort to create a Black History Month Calendar with multiple events to educate and support our community.

Let it be
Further

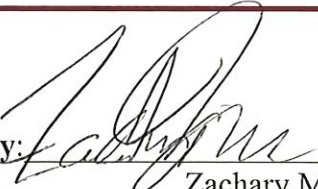
Resolved(6): A copy of this resolution be sent to:
The Battalion
Dr. Robin Means Coleman, Vice President & Associate Provost for Diversity
Dr. Daniel J. Pugh, Vice President of Student Affairs, Texas A&M University
Dr. Tonya Driver, '95, Director of Department of Multicultural Services, Texas
Bill Mahomes, '69, The Texas A&M University Board of Regents
Judge Willie E. B. Blackmon, '73, Representative at Large for The Association of Former Students.
Dr. Tanya Wickliff '03, Director of Zachry Leadership Program and Professor of Engineering Practice at Texas A&M University
Corniyah Bradley, President of the Black Student Alliance Council
K'Erika Green, President of the Texas A&M Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Fred McClure, Executive Director of Public Partnership and Outreach in the Office of the Provost
Former Congressman Will Hurd, Texas' 23rd Congressional District



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Further Sponsored By:

Emily Lucas, College of Education
Alexia Hernandez, Liberal Arts Caucus
Brogan Gunia, Off-Campus Caucus
Dylan Sione, Off Campus Caucus
Chandler Trosclair, Speaker Pro Tempore
Mariana Montes, Liberal Arts Caucus
Kat Niño, Off Campus Caucus
Michael Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus
Clayton Elbel, Off-Campus Caucus
Meghan Hein, Rules and Regulations Chair, COALS Caucus
Dylan Bohn, Mays Business Caucus
Yovanka Carolyn Gonzalez, Mays Business Caucus
Lauren Devenzio, Off-Campus Caucus
Khang Tran Nguyen, Freshman Caucus
Betzaida Perez Gomez, Engineering Caucus
Ximena Reynoso, Liberal Arts Caucus
Fawaz Syed, Student Services Chair, Engineering Caucus
Corpus, Alina, Engineering Caucus
Victor J Ferro, Engineering Caucus
Joseph Rodgers, Off Campus Caucus
Magnolia Lind, College of Science Caucus
Craig Staples, Off Campus Caucus
Kaley Collins, On-Campus Caucus
Aktaa Patel, Off-Campus Caucus
Clarissa Rodriguez, Constituency Affairs, Engineering Caucus