

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN (BLACK) HISTORY MONTH
February 1984

On February 1st we begin the Fifty-eighth Annual Black History Month, a national celebration of the role of Black Americans in all segments of life in this nation and in Black culture around the globe.

Launched in 1926 by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc., Black History Month provides opportunities for our nation's schools, institutions of higher learning, and the public to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the diverse contributions of Black Americans to our country and the world.

This year's Black History Month theme, "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education," is particularly timely, coinciding with efforts across the land to re-examine public education and reinforce excellence for all students.

It is a very special privilege for me to call on the people of the United States to join in this important time of exploring, learning, appreciating, and saluting all that Black Americans have done to help build this great nation.

As we celebrate Black History Month, 1984, let us also share a prayerful thought for the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was brutally gunned down by an assassin in 1968, his life cut short at the age of 39. But his leadership and devotion in the cause of human rights changed America forever. In this, the fifty-fifth year since his birth, may Black History Month be an especially meaningful and productive time for all of us.

Ronald Reagan

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

January 20, 1984

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH

The year 1984 marks the fifty-eighth anniversary of our nation's observance of Black History Month. This observance was initiated by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, in order to provide opportunities for our schools, institutions of higher education and citizens to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the diverse contributions of Black Americans to our history and society.

Through this year's theme, "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education," we should all recognize the many contributions to Oregon which have been made by Americans of African ancestry: historically by contributing to the development of this country; culturally by broadening the scope of musical, literary, and artistic accomplishments; professionally by bringing a unique perspective to the work environment; and educationally by seeking and providing educational excellence. This commemoration, therefore, serves to build goodwill and understanding between people for the general wellbeing of all the members of our society.

In this spirit, as Governor, I hereby proclaim the month of February, 1984, as

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH" in Oregon,

and urge our citizens to join me in paying tribute to its observance and to the important message of courage, perseverance, freedom, equality and justice it brings to all of us.



Victor Atiyeh
Victor Atiyeh
Governor



Commemorating Black History Month in Oregon are Ovelia Lewis, Governor Victor Atiyeh, Yavonda Phillips, Glenda Stevens, Tammy Phillips, Willie Barber, and Stephanie Barber.

Since Eddie Tolan became the first Black American to win an Olympic Gold Medal in 1932, Black athletes have played an increasingly important role on United States Olympic Teams and in amateur athletics. This Black History Month special issue touches on the contributions of these athletes.

This issue does not include contributions of those athletes of African heritage from the continent of Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, and all nations to the world of sports. We salute these athletes as well as those who look forward to the 1984 Olympic Games in the hopes of bringing honor to themselves and their people.

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