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2002



# Black History

AN AMERICAN STORY

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## Celebrating February as Black History Month

### Historian Recorded Slavery From the Slaves' Perspective

Honoring black history in February was first established by educator and historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926.

Many people ask why in February? Woodson chose the month because even though the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution that abolished slavery was signed in January, slaves did not start to hear of the news until February.

Born on Dec. 19, 1875 in New Canton, Va., Woodson was an American historian who taught black studies to scholars and popularized the field in the schools and colleges of blacks.

According to Woodson, "The accounts of the successful strivings of Negroes for enlightenment under most adverse circumstances reads like beautiful romances of a people in an heroic age."



Carter G. Woodson founded Black History Month in 1926.

Woodson attempted to understand slavery from the slaves' perspective, noting its different forms in South America, and acknowledging the cultural influences brought from Africa.

He encouraged historians to reinterpret standard American his-

tory critically and to draw upon the discoveries and revelations of archaeologists and anthropologists. Through his studies, he realized that prejudice was a learned phenomenon, the result of uninformed teaching and poor research.

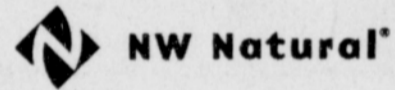
To focus attention on black contributions to civilizations, Woodson founded Negro History Week in 1926. This celebration and remembrance would later evolve into Black History Month.

Some of the written works by Dr. Woodson helped to reveal long-hidden history and the historical roles of black people. He published numerous college texts. At the time of his death, Woodson was working on a projected six-volume "Encyclopedia Africana." Woodson died on April 3, 1950.

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to Live."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Detroit, Michigan, June 1963

On his day, NW Natural salutes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
A true American Hero.

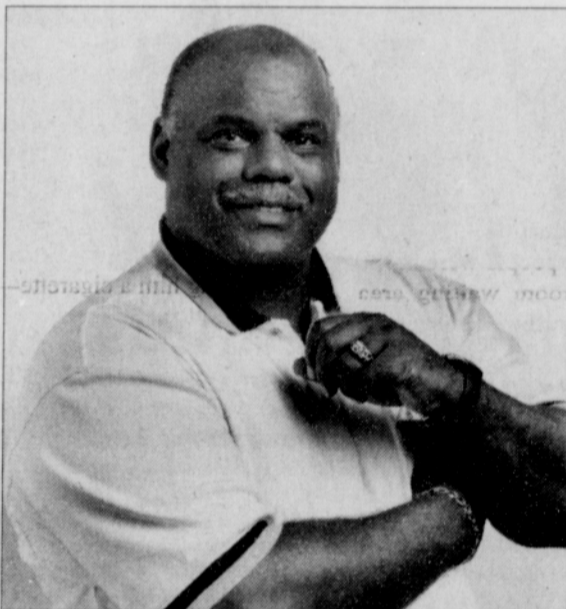


### Moore Named to Housing Authority Board

Lee Moore has been appointed to the Housing Authority of Portland board of commissioners.

The appointment brings a special closure to this long-time Portland resident. Moore was born at Vanport, a housing authority development that was the largest ever undertaken nationally. In the 1950s, his uncle was the first African American to live at Columbia Villa, one of the housing agency's earliest developments.

"This appointment is very meaningful to me on a personal level," Lee said. "It brings me full circle and allows me to give back to a community that was impor-



Lee Moore, once a public housing resident, now helps direct the agency.

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