

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, In August, 1862, the First Kansas Colored Infantry was formed, the first African Americans recruited in the Northern states for the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The First Kansas Colored Infantry went on to engage Confederate forces in Missouri, Arkansas, and Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and were lauded by General James G. Blunt, who wrote, "Too much praise can not be awarded them for their gallantry;" and

WHEREAS, We honor the memory of the brave soldiers of the First Colored Infantry and their contributions to the state of Kansas and the Nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim February 2010, as

Black History Month

in Kansas and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 22nd day of
January, A.D. 2010



BY THE GOVERNOR:

Handwritten signature of Mark Parkinson, Governor of Kansas, over a horizontal line.

Handwritten signature of Ron Hoagy, Secretary of State, over a horizontal line.
Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of Brad Bryant, Assistant Secretary of State, over a horizontal line.
Assistant Secretary of State