

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON, BIRCH,
DRUMMOND, FLYNN, GUTIERREZ, HALL, HONEMAN, JOHNSTON,
OSSIANDER, STARR, TRAINI AND MAYOR SULLIVAN

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: February 1, 2011

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 2-1-11

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2011-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
FEBRUARY 2011 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.**

WHEREAS, at the urgings of noted African American historian Dr. Carter Woodson, Omega Psi Phi fraternity first created Negro History and Literature Week in February 1920; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Woodson selected February in honor of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, both born in February; and in 2000, President Clinton proclaimed February as National African American History Month; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has much to celebrate during Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, completed in 1942, the Alcan Highway was built by two construction division teams, one white and one African-American, working from opposite ends of the project; and

WHEREAS, the first white and African American soldiers to work side-by-side on a daily basis did so in the Aleutian Islands during World War II; and

WHEREAS, on February 3rd at 7:00 p.m., the Anchorage Museum will host the last of four free public lectures spotlighting different aspects of the Aleutian campaign during World War II, notably Dashiell Hammett's military tour in Adak as the camp's newspaper editor, where he pioneered a racially-integrated newspaper staff at a time when the Army was segregated; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, Anchorage will host community events including *Black History Month Storytime* at Barnes & Noble Booksellers and lectures and movies, at University of Alaska Anchorage, commemorating the quest for civil rights in Alaska and across the globe; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by Wells Fargo, the Anchorage Museum invites residents to *Black History Family Day*, on February 13, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to watch dance performances by Underground Dance Company and to participate in kente cloth weaving, beading, and a community mural;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly joins in reflecting upon the contributions of African Americans to our state, nation, and world; those who have played important roles in American history, from making important discoveries and contributions in science, education, law, politics, music, art, sports, and the presidency of the United States of America:

Section 1: February 2011 shall be recognized and celebrated in the Municipality of Anchorage as

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

Section 2: Anchorage residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in local Black History Month events in the spirit of love of country, respect for democratic principles, and commitment to solidarity and equal opportunity for all Americans.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 1st day of February, 2011.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk