

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, February is celebrated throughout the United States of America as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, persons of African heritage have shared this land with its original inhabitants since the 1600s; and

WHEREAS, persons of African heritage have distinguished themselves through their presence and deeds as hard working and productive citizens of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, persons of African heritage have and continue to contribute to the social, economic, and political vibrancy of Vermont, these individuals and their contributions have been largely hidden from the general public; and

WHEREAS, persons of European heritage in Vermont made significant contributions to racial justice through the state constitution, the abolitionist movement, and passage of the Land Grant College Act of 1890 (Morrill Act of 1890) by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity under the leadership of Curtiss Reed, Jr., L.H.D. collaborated with the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, museums, and state and local historical societies to uncover and celebrate the history of persons of African heritage in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont African American Heritage Trail launched on January 15th, 2013 to celebrate Vermonters of African heritage, to promote cultural tourism to Vermont, and to educate Vermont students on the accomplishments of Vermonters of African heritage and others for racial justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim February, 2017 as



**VERMONT AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
TRAIL MONTH**

in Vermont and encourage all residents and visitors
to learn of this rich history year-round.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 6th day of February, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs