

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, February is celebrated throughout the United States as Black History Month to bring recognition to the experiences, contributions, and successes of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black history is American history: It is rich and storied, and it long predates the First Landings that took place in the 1600s; and

WHEREAS, the Black community was a central and necessary force that drove many of the civil liberties and social values that Americans hold so dear today, and their immeasurable contributions to the nation’s legal and cultural landscape have conferred innumerable benefits on all people in the United States for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Black community in Vermont continues to embody these values through the work of individuals and organizations who have contributed to the social, economic, and political vibrancy of Vermont. Whether seen or unseen, these efforts have led to positive gains for all Vermonters and have moved the state further in its journey towards social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Black community has endured inequality and injustice that persists to this day and this injustice is the result of deliberate actions over the course of centuries, and therefore the State recognizes the urgent need to continue taking deliberate actions to correct this injustice and advance equity for all; and

WHEREAS, Vermont strives to be a leader in protecting hard-fought civil rights, and is committed to eliminating hatred and bigotry in all systems and institutions to improve outcomes for all Vermonters and build more multicultural and socially cohesive communities; and

WHEREAS, Vermonters can learn more about the lives of African Americans and the historic figures who impacted our state and influenced our culture, as well as learning more about their experience and perspective throughout history by participating in events and discussions happening statewide; and

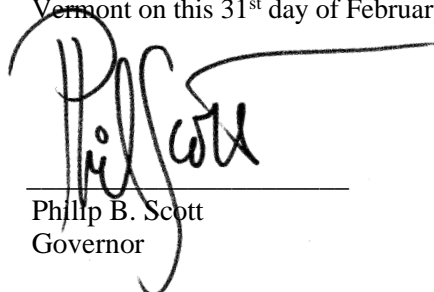
WHEREAS, Vermonters can also learn more by visiting museums and cultural sites along the [Vermont African American Heritage Trail](#), which established to celebrate Vermonters of African heritage, to promote cultural tourism to Vermont, and to educate Vermont students on the accomplishments of Vermonters of African heritage and other leaders in seeking racial justice; and

WHEREAS, in addition to learning, Vermonters can take actions by supporting Black owned businesses, recruit our Black neighbors and colleagues for job opportunities or to serve on boards, attend cultural events, design programming and initiatives to make our towns, cities, villages, offices and businesses more welcoming and inclusive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim February 2023 as

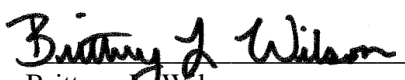
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 31st day of February, A.D. 2023.



Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs