



**John Bel Edwards**

GOVERNOR

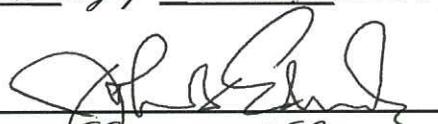
## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Black History Month is an annual opportunity to recognize the central role of African Americans in our nation's history; and
- WHEREAS,** during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions of African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, social and political development; and
- WHEREAS,** the national commemoration of black history in the United States dates back to 1926, and was initially observed the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and
- WHEREAS,** by the late 1960's, the week had evolved into Black History Month, thanks in part to the Civil Rights movement and a growing awareness of the African-American experience in our country; and
- WHEREAS,** Black History Month was officially established in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford, who called on the public to, "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans every area of endeavor throughout our history," and has since been recognized by every U.S. President; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Louisiana honors the significant contributions and advances made by African Americans in our state, across our nation and throughout the world, in such areas as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics, sports, civil rights and human rights; and
- WHEREAS,** we view the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** **I, John Bel Edwards,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim February 2017 as

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand  
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State  
of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge,  
on this 1st day of February A.D., 2017.*

  
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Governor of Louisiana