

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** West Virginia has been home to some of the country's most influential African-American scholars and leaders; and
- Whereas,** Dr. Carter G. Woodson taught high school in Winona, West Virginia; was principal of Douglass High School in Huntington, West Virginia; served as Academic Dean at West Virginia Collegiate Institute, now West Virginia State University; and founded what is today's Black History Month; and
- Whereas,** Dr. Leon Sullivan, born October 16, 1922, in Charleston, West Virginia, was the first African-American member of the Board of Directors at the General Motors Corporation, and his "Sullivan Principles" played a key role in the downfall of apartheid; and
- Whereas,** Booker T. Washington, raised in Malden, West Virginia, founded Alabama's Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in 1881, and was the foremost black educator of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; and
- Whereas,** Creola Katherine Johnson, born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, was an American mathematician with a 35-year career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) who mastered complex manual calculations, launch windows, and emergency return paths, which were essential to the start of the Space Shuttle program; and
- Whereas,** Black History Month is a time set aside to reflect on the achievements of the African-American community and recognize and honor these contributions.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 2026* as:

Black History Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to recognize the many contributions made by African-Americans in West Virginia and the nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State