

HR 8129

2026

## House Resolution

1 A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of  
2 Black History Month and honoring the achievements,  
3 history, and heritage of African Americans in Florida  
4 and across the United States.  
5

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association  
8 for the Study of Negro Life and History established "Negro  
9 History Week," and

10 WHEREAS, the observance strategically coincided with the  
11 February birthdays of Frederick Douglass, a formerly enslaved  
12 abolitionist, writer, and statesman, and Abraham Lincoln, the  
13 President who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and

14 WHEREAS, "Negro History Week" grew substantially over the  
15 decades, expanding into a monthlong celebration in schools  
16 across the country, and

17 WHEREAS, in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford formally  
18 recognized February as Black History Month, calling upon  
19 citizens to honor the often-neglected accomplishments of Black  
20 Americans in every field of human endeavor, and

21 WHEREAS, Florida's rich history includes numerous African  
22 American leaders whose accomplishments have shaped the state,  
23 including former Florida State Senator Geraldine F. Thompson,  
24 who championed historic preservation and African American  
25 History and Culture; Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, whose visionary

26 | leadership founded Bethune-Cookman University; former U.S.  
 27 | Congresswoman Carrie Pittman Meek, whose tenure in public  
 28 | service brought attention to issues such as hospice care and  
 29 | fair housing; former Florida State Representative Gwen Cherry, a  
 30 | trailblazer for women's rights and civil rights; and Harry T.  
 31 | Moore and Harriette V. Moore, courageous civil rights activists  
 32 | who gave their lives in pursuit of racial justice and voting  
 33 | rights, and

34 |         WHEREAS, in this state, African Americans have shaped  
 35 | history, culture, and communities, from the earliest days of  
 36 | Fort Mose to modern advancements in all fields of endeavor, and

37 |         WHEREAS, 2026 marks a century since Dr. Carter G. Woodson's  
 38 | vision took root, providing an occasion to reflect and educate  
 39 | with the stories, leadership, and cultural richness of African  
 40 | Americans, NOW, THEREFORE,

41 |  
 42 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 43 | Florida:

44 |  
 45 |         That the Florida House of Representatives commemorates the  
 46 | 100th anniversary of Black History Month, acknowledges the  
 47 | contributions of African Americans to the State of Florida and  
 48 | the United States.