

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: February is designated by the President as National African-American History Month, a time for honoring and exploring the culture and history of Black Americans and recognizing that our society's rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS: Countless courageous African-Americans fought extraordinary battles throughout this country's history to achieve social, economic and political equality and justice; and

WHEREAS: Looking past the painful history of inequality, there are those Arkansans—brilliant African-American artists, talented musicians, successful, professional, business and industry leaders— who have overcome; and

WHEREAS: Today outstanding African-American jurists and Black members are on the bench overseeing the same courtrooms where their God-given rights and freedoms as American citizens were once threatened and tested; today's government is comprised of African-American legislators, city and county leaders and heads of state agencies; and

WHEREAS: Looking to the past, a governor stood in the schoolhouse door where nine brave young souls would not settle for a second-class education; today, fifty years later, many are still fighting to find that equality for every child in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: We have come so far, but we must never lose sight of how far we still have to go. All Arkansans deserve the right to the best that our State has to offer; and

WHEREAS: We must not forget the men and women who worked tirelessly for freedom, civil rights and equality for all people and whose deeds helped to broaden and enrich American culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2016, as

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all my fellow citizens to neither forget the painful past nor lose sight of the promise of the future.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2016.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State