

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. During the month of February, the accomplishments and contributions of people of African descent are recognized. It has also received official recognition from governments in Canada and more recently has been observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week". (*Wikipedia*)

Is one month enough to acknowledge contributions made by African Americans?

The contributions of black people in America, as well as other countries, are so vast it seems one month is not nearly enough time to celebrate and acknowledge those contributions. Not to mention, black people are still contributing to the fabric of their respective countries by shattering ceilings, setting records, creating, cultivating, and curing! The achievements are endless! Black History is being made *every single day*, as we continue the legacy of excellence left by those who came before us and paved the way.

To truly celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and accomplishments of black people means giving us our proverbial flowers while we are still here to enjoy them. Promote black people who've exhibited excellence to the executive management teams in companies, acknowledge stellar performances in the arts by awarding the work at the Oscars (Emmy's, etc.), cast your vote at the polls for the black person interested in making the lives of *all* people better, give funding to black people in STEM careers who are making strides in research development. The only way to expand the progress of the past is to stop treating Black History like a once-a-year event, and instead focus daily on how to build upon what was achieved in the past, so that those sacrifices and contributions continue to have a lasting impact in the future!

-Tracie Momie

