

No. R-205. Senate concurrent resolution recognizing February 2022 as Black History Month in Vermont.

(S.C.R.15)

By Senator Brock,

By Representative Christie of Hartford,

Whereas, each February, Black History Month commemorates the struggles and triumphs of Black Americans in our State's and nation's history, and

Whereas, Vermont's first Black State legislator, Alexander Twilight, elected in 1836, may also have been the nation's first, and

Whereas, Crispus Attucks was the first colonist killed at the Boston Massacre in 1770, and

Whereas, millions of Black Americans have defended our nation with distinction, having served in every war since the Revolution, producing leaders such as General Colin Powell, who served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as U.S. Secretary of State, and retired General Lloyd Austin, currently serving as the nation's first Black Secretary of Defense, and

Whereas, Black Americans have achieved prominence in diverse fields, including diplomacy (Ralph Bunche, the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his mediation role in the Middle East, and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice), the literary arts (National Book Award recipient Ralph Ellison, Guggenheim Fellow Langston Hughes, and Noble Prize winner Toni Morrison), science (astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker, agricultural scientist George Washington Carver, and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, the Director of the Hayden Planetarium), the musical arts (opera singers Marian Anderson, Jessye Norman, and Leontyne Price, classical music composers Terence Blanchard, and William Grant Still, and jazz musician extraordinaire, Duke Ellington), and in the field of national civic and political leadership (Nobel Peace Prize winners the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and former President Barack Obama), and

Whereas, the accomplishments of these individuals and many other Black Americans are worthy of celebration and reflection, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes February 2022 as Black History Month in Vermont.