

*Resolution Proclaiming the  
Month of February 2004  
As "BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

*WHEREAS, Honoring African Americans and their achievements was begun by Carter G. Woodson who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 to train black historians and to collect, preserve, and publish documents on Blacks. Woodson organized Negro History Week in 1926 from as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. It is from this that we now celebrate Black History Month; and*

*WHEREAS, In 1976 the month long celebration was implemented, and is a time for all Americans to reflect on both the history and teachings of African Americans, as great Americans, whose contributions are still too little known, We can teach our children that America's story has been written by men and women of every race and creed and ethnic background. And we can ensure that our laws, our actions, and our words honor the rights and dignity of every human being; and*

*WHEREAS, Black History Month brings a rich part of our nation's heritage to life in classrooms, assemblies, film series and various events throughout the community; and as we recall these remarkable individuals, we also recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in America. As a Nation and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it. By promoting diversity, understanding, and opportunity, we will continue our efforts to build a society where every person, of every race, can realize the promise of America.*

*WHEREAS, when we celebrate, and recognize the achievements of African Americans, we recognize those leaders whose courage, insight and fortitude signifies empowerment, innovation, character and leadership: and*

*WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the month of February 2004 as "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" in Santa Barbara County and encourage the community to celebrate through out the year the differences that enrich life and the similarities that unite people around the world.*