



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA
 THE KEYSTONE COUNTY-ESTABLISHED 1827
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PROCLAMATION
Black History Month – February 2016

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an annual observance dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions, achievements, and enduring legacy of African Americans in shaping our nation's history, culture, and progress.

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges the profound impact of Black Americans across science, innovation, engineering, exploration, and beyond.

WHEREAS, Black scientists have made groundbreaking discoveries that continue to benefit society, including:

- Dr. Percy Julian, a pioneering chemist who developed synthetic compounds for lifesaving medicines including cortisone and steroids.
- Dr. George Carruthers, an astrophysicist and inventor of the ultraviolet camera/spectrograph used during the Apollo missions, advancing our understanding of space.
- Alice Ball, a chemist who developed the "Ball Method," the first effective treatment for leprosy.
- Mark Dean, a computer engineer who co-invented key components of the personal computer, including the ISA bus.
- Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist who has advanced public understanding of the universe through research and science education. His most widely recognized discovery is Manhattanhenge.

WHEREAS, Black inventors have demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, including:

- Dr. Patricia Bath, inventor of laser cataract surgery, restoring sight to countless individuals.
- Jerry Lawson, a pioneer of the video game industry who developed the first cartridge-based gaming system.
- Dr. James West, co-inventor of the electret microphone, which is used in most modern communication devices.
- Lewis Latimer, who improved the incandescent light bulb and contributed to advancements in electrical engineering.
- Elijah McCoy, an engineer and inventor known for his automatic lubrication system, leading to the phrase "the real McCoy".

WHEREAS, Black engineers and world travelers have expanded the boundaries of innovation and exploration, including:

- Frederick McKinley Jones, an inventor who revolutionized refrigerated transportation.
- Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, widely recognized as the founder of Chicago and a pioneering trader and explorer.
- Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space, advancing science and inspiring future generations.
- James Beckwourth, a frontiersman and explorer who discovered Beckwourth Pass through the Sierra Nevada.
- Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license, breaking barriers in aviation.

WHEREAS, these individuals exemplify courage, intellect, perseverance, and innovation, serving as an inspiration to all residents of Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners encourages all citizens to celebrate Black History Month by learning about and honoring the contributions of African Americans throughout history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners hereby recognizes and celebrates Black History Month and calls upon all residents to reflect upon the rich heritage and lasting contributions of African Americans to our community, state, and nation.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2016, by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman, Jefferson County B.O.C.C. – District 5

Vice Chair, Jefferson County B.O.C.C. – District 1

Jefferson County B.O.C.C. – District 2

Jefferson County B.O.C.C. – District 3

Jefferson County B.O.C.C. – District 4