

## Honoring Black History Month

Written by By Bernie Dotson  
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It is important that each generation of Black youth understands the struggles and sacrifices that Blacks endured to achieve equal rights and tolerance in American society. Young and old people today have the means to contribute to the nation and world through digital manipulation, nurturing and educating hearts and minds everywhere.

The appreciation of Black History Month, created in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, is important because of what it represents. Each case of individual success is a bridge that other Blacks, and people, can use to make the U.S. and the world a better place.

"I am where I am because of the bridges that I crossed. Sojourner Truth was a bridge. Harriet Tubman was a bridge. Ida B. Wells was a bridge. Madame C.J. Walker was a bridge. Fannie Lou Hamer was a bridge," talk show host and entrepreneur Oprah Winfrey once said.

Black History Month is still needed in a country where racism and hatred are still alive even with a former Black president. Black History Month is about education, appreciation and dedication. Black History Month is a celebration of what Blacks have accomplished in a short time. It is building pride and dignity and emphasizing compassion and understanding.

Black History Month should continue to strengthen communities year-round, not just once a year and for what is the shortest month of the year. What actions do parades and speeches set into motion without leaders to carry them through?

Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist and humanitarian, once said, "I freed thousands of slaves, and could have freed thousands more if they had known they were slaves."

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The real work in education comes in the form of work done by churches, community organizations and changing values and mores in society. If someone has your mind, they probably have your body and soul, too.

Each New Year is an opportunity to grow and learn and make people, past and present, proud of how far we have all come as an educated and advanced society.

Here's honoring Black History Month.

***By Bernie Dotson***