Historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans first conceived of the idea for African American History Month in 1926, when they organized a Negro History Week to take place in the week of February that coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Frederick Douglass, the African American orator and abolitionist.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as African American History Month. It allows us to pause and remember the countless contributions African Americans have made to our country over the decades and centuries, through law, the arts, religion, sports, politics, medicine, research, the Civil Rights movement and many other ways.

**Prayer:** Thank you for the gifts, accomplishments and witness of our African-descent neighbors and friends. Guide us as we commit ourselves to the work of racial justice, reconciliation and ending racism. May we stand together as partners, doing your work in the world together.

Visit AfricanAmericanHistoryMonth.gov for exhibits, collections, audio, video, images and teaching resources.

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