
The State Of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the many contributions of black people in all walks of American life are acknowledged and celebrated across the nation each year during the month of February; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater, the first American community north of the Columbia River, was established by George Washington Bush, a black man, in 1845 prior to Washington becoming a U.S. Territory; and

WHEREAS, black people have made many important contributions to the growth and early development of the Washington state; and

WHEREAS, in the face of discrimination and hostility, black people settled in at least ten cities and in one third of the counties in the state, succeeding in businesses in Spokane and Seattle, in the coal mines of Roslyn, on the farms in the Yakima Valley, on the trains that travelled across the land and on the ships that docked in our ports; and

WHEREAS, "A Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers" will be held February 17-20, 1988, at The Bon Marche in downtown Seattle; and

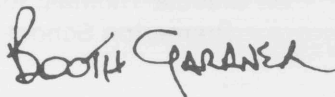
WHEREAS, this event will provide opportunities for all citizens to learn more about and appreciate the significant achievements of blacks in the Northwest and their contributions to the quality of life in our great state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 14-20, 1988, as

NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS WEEK

in the State of Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing and commemorating the spirit and enterprise of our black friends and neighbors.

Signed, this 15th day of January, 1988.



Governor Booth Gardner