

# STATE OF MONTANA



## *Governor's Proclamation*



WHEREAS, each February Americans come together to celebrate Black Americans' contributions to our Nation's and State's culture, economy, religious life, and history; and

WHEREAS, Black history in Montana dates back to 1805 when York, a Black slave, entered Montana as a part of the Lewis and Clark expedition; and

WHEREAS, Black Montanans have helped shape our state's treasured history, including Samuel Lewis, a barber and residential developer in the mid to late 1800s and whose Bozeman home is part of the National Register of Historic Places; Sarah Gammon Bickford, owner of the Virginia City Water Company from 1900 to 1931; Taylor Gordon, a White Sulphur Springs native, singer, and author of *Born to Be*, his 1929 best-selling memoir; Octavia Bridgewater, one of only several hundred Black nurses permitted to serve in the Army Nurse Corps in 1942; and Geraldine Travis, who in 1974 became the first Black Montanan elected to the Montana Legislature; among others; and

WHEREAS, Montana joins our Nation in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Black Americans who are part of the fabric of our Nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim February 2022

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Montana to reflect on and celebrate the contributions of Black Montanans.

A blue ink signature of the name "Greg Gianforte".

**GREG GIANFORTE**  
Governor