

Mayor's Proclamation Declares February 'Black History Month'

Greeneville Mayor G. Thomas Love signed a proclamation on Tuesday declaring February as "Black History Month."

The proclamation thanks the African American community for its contributions locally and asks the community to share in this recognition.

A copy of the proclamation was presented to Elder Johnny McPhail from Divine Temple; Rev. Thomas Sweatt, pastor of Jones Memorial AME Zion Church; Pearl Luvene, president of the local NAACP chapter; and Marilyn Price, director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The mayor also read the proclamation during Tuesday's Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

The text of the proclamation is as follows:

"Whereas, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the father of Black History, organized the first Negro History Week; and

"Whereas, the second week of February was chosen as the time to recognize the accomplishments of African Americans because that week

included the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and the accepted birthday of Frederick Douglass; and

"Whereas, African Americans have played an essential part in the development and success of our community and nation; and

"Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a prominent African American citizen who made significant contributions to our great nation and mankind as a whole, and

"Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., made great strides in assuring that people of all cultures received equal treatment; and

"Whereas, the citizens of Greeneville appreciate and value the diversity in our community.

"Now, therefore, I, G. Thomas Love, Mayor of the Town of Greeneville, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 1997 as Black History Month in Greeneville and ask everyone to join me in thanking our African American citizens for their contributions to our community and nation."