

# Celebrate Diversity

#MOCelebratesDiversity



## Black History Month: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Inspiring the Future

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A. Phillip Randolph

As we **honor the past**, we remember the words of A. Phillip Randolph, who said “freedom is never given; it is won”. This holds true of the American Civil War, which ended in 1865 and resulted in the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Because of the work and commitment to equal rights by individuals like Randolph, Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Du Bois, and many other known and unknown activists, we are able to celebrate where we are today.

As we **celebrate the present**, we celebrate “never before” becoming “the first”. We celebrate that “the first” led to the “second”, and “the second” led to many more. We celebrate the many accomplishments of Black Americans like being the first in your family to finish high school or attend college. It could be accomplishments as remarkable as becoming the first African-American editor of the Harvard Law Review. It could be starting your own business or continuing the work toward opportunities for all. No matter how big or small it may seem, we celebrate you and your achievements.

As we **inspire the future**, we teach our children of the past to show how it has shaped today. We tell them of our mistakes in hopes they do not repeat them. We tell them of the good to keep them confident. We encourage them to be inclusive, brave, and kind to one another. We encourage our children to strive toward new heights. And, we empower them to make their tomorrow better.

Black History Month is a time of year when we celebrate the achievements of Black Americans. It is a time when we recognize an important part of American history. In that, we hope to inspire future generations to be more diverse, inclusive, and accepting of our differences. We hope this encourages everyone to celebrate each other together.

Save the date: **February 24, 2022, at 10:30am to 11:30am** for the State of Missouri’s Black History Month Celebration—where we *honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future*. Stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions, please call 573-751-8130.

