

P R O C L A M A T I O N

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2021**

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as a national event honoring Black History and recognizing the heritage and achievements of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played a central role in our nation's history and the contributions African Americans have made and continue to make are an integral part of our society; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month can be traced back to 1926 when the writer and scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History Month" began the annual observance to help rectify the omission of African Americans from history books; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as America observed its bicentennial, the week-long commemoration was expanded to one month and is celebrated today as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter said the celebration "provides for all Americans a chance to rejoice and express pride in a heritage that adds so much to our way of life"; and

WHEREAS, African Americans residing in Fort Bragg have contributed to the betterment of our community through their activism, volunteerism, civic pride and involvement; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month reminds us to continue to fight for justice and equality and should be a uniting call to our nation to continue to work for a more diverse, supportive, inclusive, and protective union; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrates the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans, including our local heroes; and

WHEREAS, 2021 is the 151st anniversary of the 15th Amendment which gave African American men the right to vote;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bernie Norvell, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as Black History Month.

SIGNED this 25th day of January, 2021

BERNIE NORVELL, Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk

No. 02-2021