

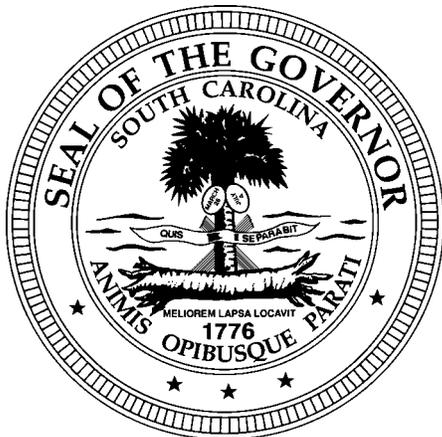
# *State of South Carolina* *Proclamation* *by* *Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** in 1915, Carter G. Woodson began pressing for a “Negro History Week” as a way to explore the contributions of Black Americans in their communities, a dream that became reality in 1926; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1965, Dr. Robert Pritchard expanded the observance in honor of Dr. Woodson with the founding of “Black History Month”; and
- WHEREAS,** the annual observance of “African-American History Month” provides a time for Americans to reflect on the history and teachings of African-Americans and to bear witness to the progress, richness, and diversity of African-American achievement; and
- WHEREAS,** generations of African-Americans serve our nation and the State of South Carolina as doctors and scientists, teachers and factory workers, soldiers and athletes, contributing significantly to our economic well-being and to our rich cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** African-Americans boast a proud tradition of military service to our country, serving our nation with honor and dignity in times of both war and peace; and
- WHEREAS,** African-Americans have accomplished so much, often in the face of hardship and adversity, and by recognizing and honoring their significant contributions to the Palmetto State, we can look forward to a bright future of further achievements as African-Americans continue to work to reach their full potential.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2002 as

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the vital role African-Americans play in securing the continued growth and prosperity of our nation and in upholding the American values of justice and freedom.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**