



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Neil D. Breslin

## Senator Breslin Celebrates February as Black History Month

NEIL D. BRESLIN February 9, 2012

(Albany, NY) “February is a time to observe and remember the history of African American’s in our society, but also embolden ourselves in the continuing fight for social and economic justice,” said Senator Neil D. Breslin (D – Delmar), marking February as Black History Month.

The history of racism in the United States – in our economy, legal and justice system, as well as everyday life – is one often difficult to talk about, but which helps define every American, regardless of race or ethnicity. Recognizing the need to reflect on our roots every day, not just during the month of February, Senator Breslin observed that the celebrations, exhibits, and ceremonies dedicated this month to black history allow for both reflection and recommitting oneself to equality.

“Black history is filled with countless individuals that have fundamentally re-shaped the course of American history,” said Senator Breslin. “We know the names of Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Barack Obama—however, they are only a piece of that history. From those who endured the indignity of slavery, to the soldier defending our freedoms overseas, Black History is filled with giants.”

Originating in 1926 historian Carter G. Woodson chose February for this celebration because the second week of the month marks the birthdays of both President Abraham Lincoln and

abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

For more information about Black History Month visit New York's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at [www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg](http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg) or [www.history.com/content/blackhistory](http://www.history.com/content/blackhistory).

###