



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Shirley L. Huntley

## Black History Month

SHIRLEY L. HUNTLEY February 10, 2010

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**News From**

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**Senator Shirley L. Huntley**

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## **Senator Shirley L. Huntley Celebrates Black History Month**

(D-Jamaica) “Say’s February is a time to observe and remember the history of black people in our society, but also to embolden ourselves in the continuing fight for social and economic justice,” said Senator Huntley, 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. We must recognize the need to reflect on our roots every day, not just during the month of February. Senator Huntley states that the celebrations, exhibits, and ceremonies dedicated this month to black history allow for both reflection and recommitting oneself to equality. It also provides an opportunity for us to reconnect with our past as well as the future roots.

“Black history is filled with countless individuals that have fundamentally re-shaped the course of American history,” said Senator Huntley. “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, to the single mother trying to make ends meet so her children lead a better life, Black History is filled with giants.” We should take this great opportunity to educate ourselves as well as our young people on the remarkable and rich history of our people. This is not just history to be remembered once a year instead, it is to be celebrated everyday with all remembering the vast accomplishments of the past, and the prospects of a greater tomorrow.

Originating in 1926 as “Negro History Week”, 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).