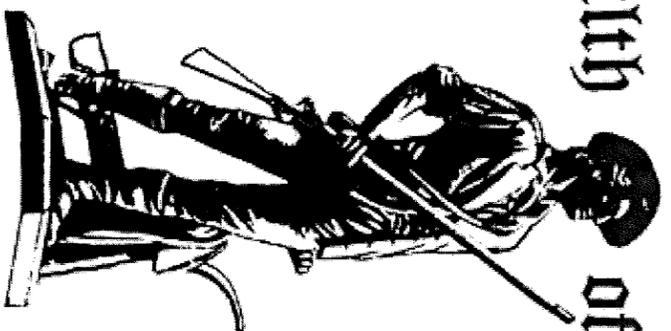


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

- Whereas** African immigrants continue to be a vital part of the Commonwealth's rich diversity by contributing significantly to all aspects of daily life, including education, medicine, commerce, agriculture, public service, technology, and the arts; and
- Whereas** African Union Day is celebrated on September 9th, 2011, and the United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of People of African Descent; and
- Whereas** Raising awareness about the health issues facing African immigrants is crucial to effectively minimizing health disparities within the community; and
- Whereas** A healthy and vibrant African community will continue to enrich American life with its heritage and culture; and
- Whereas** It is appropriate that all residents recognize African immigrants for their many contributions to the cities and towns across our Commonwealth,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 2011 to be,

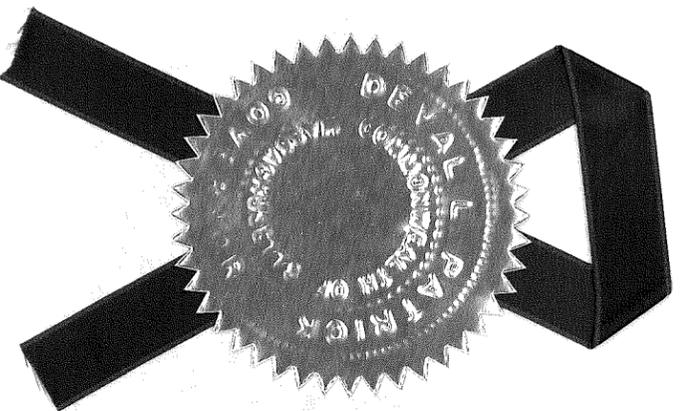
AFRICAN IMMIGRANT HERITAGE AND HEALTH MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of September, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick".

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin".

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts