



**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO  
CELEBRATES AND HONORS AFRICAN AMERICANS  
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Albuquerque, February 1**—February begins Black History Month, a time to reflect on and to recognize the accomplishments of African Americans in our nation. It's not only important to acknowledge their significant achievements throughout American history but also to understand and recognize the struggles and hardships of African Americans and to appreciate the key role they have played in our society.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate African American achievement and to honor those who have helped shape our nation and promoted change for the better.

The Republican Party of New Mexico will continue to fight for policies that promote inclusion and freedom for all New Mexicans.

Adelious Stith, Republican Ward 29 Chair, Bernalillo County, released the following statement:

“I am glad to have a dedicated month to highlight the lives of Black Americans who made significant strides to improve or impact the level of living for all Americans. They have given us the reason to persevere through the trials and to turn situations from destructive to positive, productive, and beneficial for all. People such as Lemuel Haynes, set the tone for future Americans, where his character showcased the ideal picture of how strength and integrity can be beneficial to all. Thank GOD for a time to put a spotlight on those whose shoulders upon which we now stand. Black History Month-a time to discover, to learn, and to grow.”

Jewll Powdrell, a member of RPNM’s Executive Committee, released the following statement:

“As an African American, it’s important that all of us understand and appreciate Black history and Black culture. This special month is a celebration and acknowledgment of the achievements of Black Americans. It is also a period in which Americans as a whole can come together and celebrate what it means to be an American. It is imperative that as a country we recognize the contributions of its inhabitants regardless of race, religion, or ethnic origin, as to why this is the greatest country in the world. The contributions of Black Americans in the past, present and future will continue to significantly influence our society, and it’s vital that we all remain cognizant of those contributions.”

Black History Month was first proposed in February 1969 at Kent State University and

celebrated there a year later. In 1976 President Ford recognized February as Black History Month to pay tribute to African Americans past and present. He told Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."



**JEWELL POWDRELL**



**ADELIOUS STITH**