Title: National Deaf History Month Resolution

2020-RES-03
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Resolution:
I, Dawn Watts, move that March 13th- April 15th be recognized as National Deaf History Month

Rationale:
There are so many reasons why we want to have National Deaf History Month from March 13th to April 15th. These are:

1. In 1997, The Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action was established by Alice Hagemeyer, in cooperation with both the Deaf and Library communities, have been promoting to the public to observe March 13-15 as National Deaf History Month sending out a Press Release 2016 stating this.

2. In 2006, the American Library Association (ALA) and the NAD announced a resolution that March 13 to April 15 is National Deaf History Month.

3. In 2012, the NAD urged everyone to recognize and celebrate March 13 to April 15 as National Deaf History Month.

4. In 2016, the Governor of Maryland recognized National Deaf History Month after Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library passed into law.

5. On December 6, 2017, the Governor of Ohio signed an Ohio Deaf History Month Resolution on March 13 to April 15.

6. On March 13, 2019, US Congresswoman, Joyce Beatty from Ohio’s 3rd District, introduced HR Resolution 224 National Deaf History Month Resolution on March 13 to April 15 after their legislative assistants researched the Library of Congress for the facts. (First celebrated in 1997 at the behest of the National Association of the Deaf, National Deaf History Month began as a week-long awareness campaign celebrated at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC)

7. History of March 13, 1988, Deaf President Now was the most impacted big event to the world for Deaf, HH, and DeafBlind because it would be the first time not only having a deaf but one who could fluently sign our language. The Martin Luther King Banner which stated "We still have a Dream" was led by the deaf students in the march! Just like the blacks who have long wanted to be recognized so did the deaf.

8. National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month is celebrated September 15 to October 15. It is ok to celebrate half month for National Deaf History Month because we have a good reason to remember our special celebrations on March 13, 1988 when Gallaudet University appointed the FIRST Deaf President; Abraham Lincoln signed the charter authorizing Gallaudet University (College) to confer college degrees on April 8, 1864; and the first public school for the deaf
founded in Hartford, Connecticut on April 15, 1817 as the American School for the Deaf. Also, April 15 is National ASL Day.

In closing, some hearing students in ASL Class said "Why it took 124 years for a Deaf person to become President of Gallaudet University. I do not support having the full month of April for the National Deaf History Month Resolution because it will exclude one of the paramount events that happened in March. To be exact, March 13, 1988 which was The Deaf President Now march. My concern is that our young deaf children will never realize our precious history if this is excluded."