

## How Do You Celebrate African American Month?

Black History Month has its roots in historian Carter G. Woodson's Negro History Week, which he designated in 1926, as the second week in February to mark the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

We celebrate Black History Month by honoring the many important contributions made by African Americans. During the month of February we all have a unique opportunity to celebrate African American culture and to learn about the many achievements of the African American Community in spite of the tremendous prejudice and discrimination they have endured.

OC Human Relations believes that focusing our attention on the struggles and achievements of the African American Community will help all of us be better neighbors and build better communities. We encourage you to do this in the old fashioned way, by getting to know your neighbors and coworkers and expanding your group of friends to include people of diverse backgrounds. Reach OC Human Relations by phone at (714) 567-7470 or visit the website at [www.ochumanrelations.org](http://www.ochumanrelations.org)



## Local Hero Dorothy Mulkey Honored by OC Human Relations

In the early 1960's Dorothy Mulkey faced the indignity of not being able to rent a new apartment because of racial discrimination. Rather than ignore this injustice, she took the issue to the courts to seek relief. The local courts, including the California State Supreme Court, upheld the ability of Orange County property owners to discriminate against renters and buyers. California voters had addressed this "right" when they passed Proposition 14 in 1964 which effectively nullified the Rumford Fair Housing Act. On May 29, 1967, the US Supreme Court overturned both California State Courts and lower court decisions and ruled Proposition 14 unconstitutional. Dorothy's intention was to have "what we thought everybody had a right to - a place to live where they wanted to live based upon their ability to pay." In May 2005 Dorothy Mulkey received the OC Human Relations Award.