February is National Black History Month, a month dedicated to celebrating and remembering the history, accomplishments, and triumphs of black American culture. Here are some historical events that occurred during the month of February:

**February 1:** The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress. Ratification was completed December 6, 1865.

**February 7:** Negro History week, originated by Carter G. Woodson, is observed for the first time in 1926.

**February 13:** The first Black professional basketball team “The Renaissance” organized 1923.

**February 19:** Vonetta Flowers became the first Black gold medalist in the history of the Winter Olympic Games. She and partner Jull Brakken won the inaugural women’s two-person bobsled event in 2002 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

**February 20:** Death of Frederick Douglass (78), Douglass was the leading Black spokesman for almost fifty years. He was a major abolitionist and a lecturer and editor.

**February 28:** Musician and entertainer Michael Jackson wins eight Grammy Awards. His album, “Thriller”, broke all sales records to-date, and remains one of the top-grossing albums of all time.

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### Valentine’s Day

Did you know?

- In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14th the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.

- Over $1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S.

- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

- The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.

- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

- Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.


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### New Year’s Resolutions?

What was your resolution? Has it been successful? Whether it’s spending more time with family, studying more, giving self more free time, or hitting the gym, best of luck with it!