



"Founders of Black History Month"

# ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, INC.

2225 Georgia Avenue, NW, Suite 331, Washington, DC 20059  
Phone: (202) 865-0053 • Fax: (202) 265-7920  
Website: [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org) • Email: [info@asalh.net](mailto:info@asalh.net)

**President**  
Dr. James Stewart

**Vice President for  
Membership**  
Dr. Janet Sims-Wood

**Vice President for Program**  
Dr. Daryl Michael Scott

**Secretary**  
Ms. Zende Clark

**Treasurer**  
Mr. Troy Thornton

**Executive Director**  
Ms. Sylvia Y. Cyrus

**December 8, 2010**

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Terry Spicer, PR Consultant  
CEO, Epiphany Public Relations, LLC of NC  
[twspicer@epiphanyprnc.com](mailto:twspicer@epiphanyprnc.com)  
(919) 803-6070

### **2011 National Black History Month Theme Announced**

**Washington, DC – (December 1, 2010)** In the continued tradition of excellence and directive on historical perspective regarding the tremendous impact of African Americans started by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History in 1915, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is excited to announce the 2011 National Black History Month Theme as “African Americans and the Civil War.” As the Founder of Black History Month, ASALH chose this theme to honor the efforts of people of African descent to destroy slavery and inaugurate universal freedom in the United States.

In 1861, as the United States stood at the brink of Civil War, people of African descent, both enslaved and free persons, waited with a watchful eye. They understood that a war between the North and the South might bring about jubilee--the destruction of slavery and universal freedom. When the Confederacy fired upon Fort Sumter and war ensued, President Abraham Lincoln maintained that the paramount cause was to preserve the Union, not end slavery. Frederick Douglass, the most prominent black leader, opined that regardless of intentions, the war would bring an end to slavery, America’s “peculiar institution.”

Over the course of the war, the four million people of African descent in the United States proved Douglass right. Free and enslaved blacks rallied around the Union flag in the cause of freedom. From the cotton and tobacco fields of the South to the small towns and big cities of the North, nearly 200,000 joined the Grand Army of the Republic and took up arms to destroy the Confederacy. They served as recruiters, soldiers, nurses, and spies, and endured unequal treatment, massacres, and riots as they pursued their quest for freedom and equality. Their record of service speaks for itself, and Americans have never fully realized how their efforts saved the Union.

This theme is also the focus of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Luncheon scheduled on Saturday, February 26, 2011 that will be held at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel on 999 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW; click on [http://www.asalh.org/Annual\\_Luncheon.html](http://www.asalh.org/Annual_Luncheon.html).

ASALH encourages all Americans to study and reflect on the value of their contributions to the nation.