

to anyone and was a reality to some. An emotional response was provoked in each of us. To some, like myself, it was an awakening, an experience of deeper understanding. Intense discussion concluded the day and a sense of empowerment was instilled in each of us ten year-olds to help everyone gain what should be inherently theirs from birth.

Carter G. Woodson is a name I had not heard of until writing this article. Generally speaking, he was an American historian and educator, but he is credited with creating the foundation of the Black History Month that we celebrate currently.

Like many who came before and after him, Woodson noticed that the textbooks that he read in his undergraduate and graduate degree programs told an inaccurate history, either neglecting African Americans participation in it almost entirely or only telling the white man's side. He and Jesse E. Moorland created what is known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) to provide a means for education and celebration of the African American perspective and progression in 1915.

Less than ten years after that, Woodson and the association initiated an official week in February dedicated to promoting curriculum on African American history. While it caught on quickly across many school, "The most popular textbook [of the mid-1960s] for eighth-grade U.S. history classes mentioned only two black people in the entire century of history that had transpired since the Civil War," according to Time Magazine. Within the following decade however, colleges and universities put forth effort to create the week into a month-long celebration.

Education on the history of the African American struggle and achievements will never lose power or importance. It is only through it that we will remember the persecution that an entire body of people faced and endured, from which they are still healing and experiencing still in both new and old ways. "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." -Malcom X †

Crisis in Venezuela

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

NICOLAS MADURO'S PRESIDENTIAL REIGN IN VENEZUELA has been scourged with poverty and famine since he took office in 2013, inheriting the country after the death of dictator Hugo Chavez in that same year. Maduro, who was a bus driver prior to getting involved in government under Chavez, blamed Venezuela's economic crash on sabotage by political enemies but has consistently failed to suspect his own socialist economic policies. He has been scrutinized by the opposing party of gradually shifting towards an authoritarian state, which been shown through declining human rights, extreme food scarcity, and a tight police presence.

On April 20, 2018, Maduro won a re-election for the presidency, met with suspicion of voter fraud. On January 23rd, Juan Guaido, the leader of the opposing party the National Assembly, swore himself into office, using articles which specify the legality of the leader of the assembly becoming president if a "usurper" wins the office.

Since then, protests erupted across Venezuela, as they had been for six years beforehand, and Maduro has had many words for the opposition. Yet, the people he rebukes continue to die because his policies fail to provide them with food. Maduro has rejected humanitarian aids to his country, stating, "We are not beggars." He has blocked many roads going into the country, preventing help from coming in – as well as people from getting out. This kind of behavior is reminiscent of the USSR's rejection of American financial aid during the cold war when communism wreaked death upon its nations.

Guaido made a plea to the Venezuelan military to allow aid efforts to cross through the borders: "Soldiers of the fatherland: We need the humanitarian aid to come, for your mother, your sister and all your family."

The prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, stated that he would be giving over \$53 million in humanitarian aid. The Lima Group, a collection of thirteen western nations including Canada, has also called upon the UN and the world to provide relief.

The time has come for countries around the world to take a stand against Maduro. The Trump administration has put the US in support of the opposition leader and recognizes Guaido as the rightful president, as have several EU nations and a few South American nations. America has also put pressure on Maduro by pressing economic sanction with the country, especially on oil, in which the US is Venezuela's largest customer and makes up about 90% of the entire country's income. A few countries have shown their support for Maduro, including Russia and China. Pope Francis stated that he wishes to see a peaceful resolution to the conflict but has not confirmed that he supports Guaido.

It will be a big point in history for Venezuela regardless of how this story ends. Either they will continue to have a president-turning-dictatorship, or they will have a leader who will seek to help the humanitarian crisis. It will also be an awakening of seeing which countries are willing to fight for freedom in the world. †

Looming Shutdown

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

FEBRUARY 15TH IS LOOMING AHEAD OF US and so is the threat of a shutdown happening again for the United States government. Thirty-five days and 800,000 unpaid federal workers will go down in history as the longest-ever federal shutdown, a result of a standoff between the sitting President and Congress over the payment to build a border wall. The impacts of the shutdown weren't only obvious to the workers who weren't getting paid, but the results were evident in the economy as well.

The uncertainty of the government shutdown was rivaled by those stepping up to help the workers in need. Anti-hunger advocates as well as other groups, and even restaurateurs worked together to ensure that federal employees who had no pay but had mouths to feed would continue to have proper access to food.

ABC News as well as *The Washington Post* reported how cities such as Tampa, Chicago, Rochester, Minnesota, and Ogden expanded their hours for federal employees to have the opportunity of obtaining groceries and other necessities including pet food. Restaurants were giving free meals to families in need, and patrons even sponsored meals to furloughed workers according to the NYT's. Chicago set an example by serving their community of furloughed federal employees with free lunches, museum tickets, and even temporary jobs to get them by. The Chicago Tribune shared how their city came together, and although they understood that their efforts wouldn't fix the issue they hoped it would ease them to know their city had their back.

Elite Daily, a Bustle Digital Group online publication, shared some views on what would happen if the looming government shutdown on February 15th becomes a reality. "800,000 federal employees who were out of work on furlough or working without pay would be financially burdened once more. For the lowest-paid workers who were out of a job for a month, there is no salary to be recouped, and a second shutdown would likely leave them scrambling to make ends meet."

While those who were public servants through their employment with the government are eligible for backpay, the ones who care for facilities and do contract work aren't, further putting a strain on federal workers across the board. As the countdown to shutdown continues, the stock market is also bracing itself already in case that the second shutdown under Trump's presidency occurs.

Continued on pg. 4