

The City of Boston



PROCLAMATION

- Whereas, Rebecca (Davis) Lee Crumpler was born in Delaware on February 8, 1831, and raised in Pennsylvania by an aunt who taught her to care for the sick; AND*
- Whereas, She moved to Charlestown and then Boston to work as a nurse before being admitted to the New England Female Medical College (now known as Boston University School of Medicine); AND*
- Whereas, In 1864 she graduated as a Doctress of Medicine and is recognized as being the first Black American woman to earn a medical degree in the United States; AND*
- Whereas, After the Civil War she worked for the Freedman's Bureau in Virginia treating thousands of freed slaves and their families who were denied medical care, before returning to Boston to provide care for poor women and children; AND*
- Whereas, In 1883 Dr. Crumpler wrote "A Book of Medical Discourses In Two Parts," the first medical book written by a Black physician in the United States; AND*
- Whereas, Dr. Crumpler died on March 9, 1895, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Hyde Park; AND*
- Whereas, The Global Health Crisis of COVID-19 has exposed the deep disparities that remain in the health care for Black Americans and other people of color; NOW*
- Therefore, I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim February 8, 2021, the 190th anniversary of her birth, to be Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler Day in the City of Boston.*

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler Day *in the City of Boston*

I encourage all to recognize Dr. Crumpler as a role model for the Black youth of Boston and to take on her goal of equality in health care.

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR OF BOSTON
February 8, 2021