

HM 319

2016

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to recognize the month of June each
4 year as "Caribbean Heritage Month."
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6 WHEREAS, from a region that conjures images of a scenic
7 paradise, Caribbean Americans are as vibrant as the islands from
8 which they come, possessing a wealth of talent and history that
9 reverberates throughout this great state and nation, and

10 WHEREAS, emigration from the Caribbean region to the
11 American colonies began as early as 1619, with the arrival of
12 indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia, and since 1820,
13 millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to
14 the United States, and

15 WHEREAS, as educators, authors, community leaders and
16 activists, musicians, and politicians, Caribbean Americans have
17 made their mark in every facet of our society and have
18 contributed to the betterment and diversity of our state and
19 nation, and

20 WHEREAS, counted among many famous sons and daughters of
21 the Caribbean are activist W.E.B. Du Bois; Secretary of the
22 Treasury Alexander Hamilton; the first African-American
23 Secretary of State Colin Powell; actress Cicely Tyson; Sidney
24 Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy
25 Award for best actor in a leading role; author, poet, and civil
26 rights activist James Weldon Johnson; musician, actor, and

HM 319

2016

27 | activist Harry Belafonte; Roberto Clemente, the first Latino
28 | inducted into the baseball hall of fame; and numerous others who
29 | have displayed great strength and resiliency while serving as
30 | pioneers among the people of the Caribbean, and

31 | WHEREAS, the modern political influences of Caribbean
32 | Americans are evident in the election of former member of the
33 | Florida House of Representatives, Jennifer Carroll of Trinidad
34 | and Tobago, as Florida's first Caribbean-American Lieutenant
35 | Governor; the election of former Maryland Lieutenant Governor
36 | Anthony G. Brown, who is of Jamaican descent; and the continued
37 | representation in local, state, and national governments by
38 | members from the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica,
39 | and other Caribbean nations, and

40 | WHEREAS, in June 2005, the United States House of
41 | Representatives unanimously adopted a concurrent resolution
42 | recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their
43 | descendants in the history and culture of the United States and
44 | observing the month of June as "Caribbean Heritage Month," and

45 | WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, the United States Senate
46 | unanimously passed the resolution, culminating in a two-year
47 | bicameral effort, and

48 | WHEREAS, since the passage of the resolution in 2005, the
49 | White House has issued an annual proclamation recognizing June
50 | as "Caribbean-American Heritage Month," exemplifying the
51 | importance of this observance across the nation, and

HM 319

2016

52 WHEREAS, the United States of America has thrived as a
53 country of immigrants, united by common values and the promise
54 of a better tomorrow, NOW, THEREFORE,

55

56 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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58 That the Congress of the United States is urged to
59 recognize the month of June each year as "Caribbean Heritage
60 Month" as a celebration of our countries' shared past,
61 intertwined present, and inextricably linked future as well as
62 the strength, diversity, and richness that Caribbean Americans
63 have woven into the fabric of this nation.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
65 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
66 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
67 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
68 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.