By Senator Hill

1-396-06

1	Senate Resolution
2	A resolution recognizing the month of June as
3	"Caribbean-American Heritage Month" in Florida.
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5	WHEREAS, people of Caribbean heritage are found in
6	every state of the Union, and
7	WHEREAS, emigration from the Caribbean region to the
8	American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of
9	indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia, and
10	WHEREAS, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries, a
11	significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were
12	brought to the United States, and
13	WHEREAS, since 1820, millions of people have emigrated
14	from the Caribbean region to the United States, and
15	WHEREAS, much like the United States, the countries of
16	the Caribbean have faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism
17	and have struggled for independence, and
18	WHEREAS, like the people of the United States, the
19	people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural,
20	and religious backgrounds, and
21	WHEREAS, the independence movements in many countries
22	in the Caribbean during the 1960s and the consequential
23	establishment of independent democratic countries in the
24	Caribbean have strengthened ties between the region and the
25	United States, and
26	WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the
27	United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was
28	born in the Caribbean, and
29	WHEREAS, there have been many influential
30	Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States,
31	including Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of

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Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James
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    Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem;
    Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and
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   first African-American woman candidate for President; and
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   Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music, and
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           WHEREAS, the many influential Caribbean-Americans in
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    the history of the United States also include Colin Powell,
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    the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier,
    the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award
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    for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician,
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   actor, and activist; Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist;
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   Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball
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   hall of fame; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television
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   personality, and
           WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans have played an active role
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    in the civil rights movement and other social and political
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   movement in the United States, and
           WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly
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    to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism,
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    sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music,
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    science, technology, and other endeavors in the United States,
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    and
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           WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans share their culture
    through carnivals, festivals, music, dance, film, and
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    literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United
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   States, and
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           WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean are important
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    economic partners of the United States, and
           WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean represent the
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   United States third border, and
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WHEREAS, the people of the Caribbean region share the
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   hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for
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   peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the
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   rest of the world, and
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           WHEREAS, June is an appropriate month to establish a
   Caribbean-American Heritage Month, NOW, THEREFORE,
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   Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:
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           That the month of June is recognized as
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    "Caribbean-American Heritage Month" in Florida and the people
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    of this state are encouraged to observe the month with
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    appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.
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