

By Senator Campbell

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1 Senate 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-American Heritage Month."

5  
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 on 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 the many famous sons and daughters  
21 of 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; actor  
24 Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the  
25 Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role; author, poet,  
26 and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson; musician, actor,  
27 and activist Harry Belafonte; athlete Roberto Clemente, the  
28 first Latino inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame;  
29 and numerous others who have displayed great strength and  
30 resiliency while serving as pioneers among the people of the  
31 Caribbean, and

32 WHEREAS, the modern political influences of Caribbean-

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

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

47 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, the United States Senate  
48 unanimously passed the resolution, culminating a two-year  
49 bicameral effort, and

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

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

57  
58 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

59  
60 That the Congress of the United States is urged to  
61 recognize the month of June each year as "Caribbean-American

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62 Heritage Month" as a celebration of our shared past with the  
63 Caribbean region, intertwined present, and inextricably linked  
64 future, as well as the strength, diversity, and richness that  
65 Caribbean-Americans have woven into the fabric of this nation.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State is  
67 directed to dispatch copies of this memorial to the President of  
68 the United States, to the President of the United States Senate,  
69 to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
70 and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United  
71 States Congress.