

By Senator Campbell

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 2018 as "Caribbean Heritage Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, from a region that conjures images of a scenic paradise, Caribbean Americans are as vibrant as the islands from which they come, possessing a wealth of talent and history that reverberates throughout this great state and nation, and

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

WHEREAS, counted among many famous sons and daughters of the Caribbean are civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois; United States Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton; United States Secretary of State Colin Powell; United States Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; Oscar-nominated actress Cicely Tyson; Oscar-winning actor Sidney Poitier; author, poet, and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson; musician, actor, and social activist Harry Belafonte; Haitian Revolution General Henri Christophe; actor and author Louise Bennett-Coverley; and numerous others who have displayed great strength and resiliency while serving as pioneers among the people of the Caribbean, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Trinidad and Tobago-born former Lieutenant Governor and former State Representative Jennifer Carroll, along with Jamaica-born former House member and current City of Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Hazelle Rogers, decided to officially recognize the significance of people of the Caribbean

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30 Diaspora and their descendants in the history and culture of
31 Florida by establishing the first Caribbean Recognition Day in
32 the Florida House of Representatives, and

33 WHEREAS, Ms. Carroll and Mayor Rogers wanted to teach
34 communities about the great contributions Caribbean Americans,
35 with their rich mixture of Caribbean and African influences,
36 have made to this state, enriching the strength of America with
37 leaders in government, education, medicine, business, sports,
38 entertainment, and many other fields, and

39 WHEREAS, we recognize the outstanding contributions to this
40 state by the chair of this great event, Senator Daphne Campbell;
41 her co-chair, Mayor Rogers; and her vice chair, Ms. Carroll, and
42 express the gratitude of all Floridians for their service, and

43 WHEREAS, this initial legislative celebration was a prelude
44 to the issuance of a proclamation by then-Governor Charlie Crist
45 which declared the month of June as "Caribbean Heritage Month"
46 in Florida, and

47 WHEREAS, the United States has thrived as a country of
48 immigrants, united by common values and by the promise of a
49 better tomorrow, NOW, THEREFORE,

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51 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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53 That June 2018 is recognized as "Caribbean Heritage Month"
54 in Florida and all communities and individuals throughout the
55 state are encouraged to honor their cultural and historical
56 bonds and be reminded that America's greatness lies in its
57 diversity.