

By Senator Brandes

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 2021 as "Caribbean American 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, emigration from the Caribbean region to the American colonies began as early as 1619, with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia, and since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States, 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 sociologist and 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; writer and nationalist leader José Martí; professor of literature Mayra Santos-Febres; and numerous others who have

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30 displayed great strength and resiliency while serving as
31 pioneers among the people of the Caribbean, and

32 WHEREAS, in June 2005, the United States House of
33 Representatives unanimously adopted a concurrent resolution
34 recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their
35 descendants in the history and culture of the United States and
36 observing the month of June as "Caribbean American Heritage
37 Month," and

38 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, the United States Senate
39 unanimously passed the resolution, culminating a two-year
40 bicameral effort, and

41 WHEREAS, since the passage of the resolution by the United
42 States House of Representatives in 2005, the White House has
43 issued an annual proclamation recognizing June as "Caribbean
44 American Heritage Month," exemplifying the importance of this
45 observance across the nation, and

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

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

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52 That June 2021 is recognized as "Caribbean American
53 Heritage Month" in Florida.