

HR 8089

2025

House Resolution

A resolution designating May 2025 as "Haitian Heritage Month" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month is celebrated by the Haitian diaspora around the world to celebrate Haitian heritage and culture, and

WHEREAS, as educators, authors, entrepreneurs, community leaders, activists, athletes, artists, musicians, and politicians, Haitian Americans have made their mark and have contributed to the betterment and diversity of this state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, Haitians fought in the American Revolution to support independence efforts from the British, and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1804, Haiti declared and won her independence from the French, led by revolutionaries to include Toussaint de Bréda (also known as "Toussaint l'Ouverture"), Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henri Christophe, Alexandre Pétion, Victoria Montou (also known as "Gran Toya" and "Adbaraya Toya"), Dutty Boukman, Marie-Jeanne Lamartinière, Cécile Fatiman, and Suzanne "Sanité" Bélair, and

WHEREAS, Haiti is the only country to be born of a successful revolt of enslaved people declaring their independence and affirming their humanity, becoming the first independent state in Latin America and the Caribbean, and

HR 8089

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26 WHEREAS, Haiti was the first country in the world to
27 abolish slavery, helped Simón Bolívar lead the charge to
28 liberate Latin America from Spanish rule, supported Greece's
29 efforts for independence, and cast the deciding vote in the
30 United Nations to allow Israel to be recognized as a nation in
31 modern times, and

32 WHEREAS, May 18 is Flag Day in Haiti, and

33 WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Florida have
34 thrived as a melding of immigrants, united by common values and
35 the promise of a better tomorrow, and

36 WHEREAS, according to the Migration Policy Institute, more
37 than two-thirds of Haitian immigrants living in the United
38 States reside in Florida and New York, and

39 WHEREAS, there are significant populations of Haitian
40 Americans in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia,
41 Pennsylvania, Georgia, New Hampshire, Illinois, Texas, and
42 Washington, D.C., and

43 WHEREAS, there is a strong connection between Haitians and
44 Florida, including hundreds of thousands of Haitian Americans
45 residing in South Florida alone, NOW, THEREFORE,

46
47 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
48 Florida:

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50 That May 2025 is designated as "Haitian Heritage Month" in
51 the State of Florida.