

HR 8081

2026

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating May 18, 2026, as "Haitian
3 Flag Day" in the State of Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Republic of Haiti, an island nation located in
6 the West Indies on the western third of the Island of
7 Hispaniola, declared its independence from French colonial rule
8 on January 1, 1804, following a slave revolt under the
9 leadership of Generals Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean-Jacques
10 Dessalines, and Alexandre Pétion, becoming the first and only
11 state created from a successful slave rebellion, and

12 WHEREAS, Haiti was the first independent nation in Latin
13 America and the first postcolonial independent nation led by
14 blacks in the world, and

15 WHEREAS, observed every year on May 18, Haitian Flag Day
16 was celebrated secretly in Haiti during United States occupation
17 from 1915 to 1934 and was first celebrated in communities around
18 the world in the late 1990s, and

19 WHEREAS, the Haitian flag known today, which was officially
20 adopted in 1806 by President Alexandre Pétion, is emblazoned
21 with the country's coat of arms and the colors red and blue,
22 adopted from the flag of France, the country from which Haiti
23 gained its independence, and

24 WHEREAS, General Jean-Jacques Dessalines is regarded as the
25 designer of the Haitian flag and, according to Haitian

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26 | historical tradition, was known to have dramatically cut the
27 | French tricolor with his saber at the May 1803 Arcahaie
28 | conference, ripping away the white of the French flag to
29 | symbolize an end to European influence and leaving two strips
30 | that Catherine Flon then sewed back together: the blue, which
31 | represented the former African slaves brought to Haiti by
32 | colonial powers, and the red, which symbolized people of mixed
33 | European and African descent, and

34 | WHEREAS, the Haitian flag is a definitive symbol of pride
35 | for the Caribbean nation, having become the second republic,
36 | after the United States, to defeat a European colonial power in
37 | the Americas, and

38 | WHEREAS, Haitian Flag Day events are annually observed and
39 | celebrated with pride and enthusiasm throughout Florida and the
40 | United States, and

41 | WHEREAS, as educators, authors, community leaders,
42 | activists, athletes, artists, musicians, and politicians,
43 | Haitians and Haitian Americans have left an indelible mark on
44 | every facet of this nation's society and the world, evidenced by
45 | the accomplishments of such icons as Jean Baptiste Point du
46 | Sable, founder of the City of Chicago; civil rights activist
47 | W.E.B. Du Bois; National Football League player Pierre Garçon;
48 | author and candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2009,
49 | Frankétienne; and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Nikki M.
50 | James, and

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51 WHEREAS, an estimated 1.2 million persons of Haitian
52 descent now reside in the United States, and more than 231,000
53 Haitian Americans live in southern Florida alone, and

54 WHEREAS, Haitian Flag Day recognizes the Haitian and
55 Haitian-American communities and acknowledges their culture and
56 heritage, which have enriched the lives of the people of this
57 state and nation, NOW, THEREFORE,

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59 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
60 Florida:

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62 That May 18, 2026, is designated as "Haitian Flag Day" in
63 the State of Florida.