By Senator Hill

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1-396-06
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                          Senate Resolution
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           A resolution recognizing the month of June as
           "Caribbean-American Heritage Month" in Florida.
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           WHEREAS, people of Caribbean heritage are found in
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   every state of the Union, and
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           WHEREAS, emigration from the Caribbean region to the
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   American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of
    indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia, and
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           WHEREAS, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries, a
    significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were
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   brought to the United States, and
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           WHEREAS, since 1820, millions of people have emigrated
    from the Caribbean region to the United States, and
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           WHEREAS, much like the United States, the countries of
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    the Caribbean have faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism
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    and have struggled for independence, and
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           WHEREAS, like the people of the United States, the
   people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural,
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   and religious backgrounds, and
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           WHEREAS, the independence movements in many countries
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    in the Caribbean during the 1960s and the consequential
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    establishment of independent democratic countries in the
    Caribbean have strengthened ties between the region and the
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   United States, and
           WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the
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   United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was
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   born in the Caribbean, and
           WHEREAS, there have been many influential
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    Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States,
   including Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James 2 Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and 3 first African-American woman candidate for President; and 4 Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music, and 5 6 WHEREAS, the many influential Caribbean-Americans in 7 the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, 8 the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award 9 for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, 10 actor, and activist; Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist; 11 12 Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball 13 hall of fame; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television 14 personality, and WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans have played an active role 15 in the civil rights movement and other social and political 16 17 movement in the United States, and WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly 18 to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, 19 sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, 20 21 science, technology, and other endeavors in the United States, 22 and 23 WHEREAS, Caribbean-Americans share their culture through carnivals, festivals, music, dance, film, and 2.4 literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United 25 States, and 26 27 WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean are important 2.8 economic partners of the United States, and WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean represent the 29 30 United States third border, and 31

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WHEREAS, the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world, and WHEREAS, June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month, NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida: That the month of June is recognized as "Caribbean-American Heritage Month" in Florida and the people of this state are encouraged to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

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