



HR0684

LRB102 26439 LAW 36802 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, People of Caribbean heritage are found in every  
3 state across the country; and

4 WHEREAS, During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a  
5 significant number of Africans who had been held in the  
6 Caribbean region were brought to the United States and  
7 enslaved; and

8 WHEREAS, During those same centuries, some native people  
9 from the United States were deported to the Caribbean; and

10 WHEREAS, The countries of the Caribbean, much like the  
11 United States, faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and  
12 struggled for independence; and

13 WHEREAS, The people of the Caribbean region, also similar  
14 to the United States, have diverse racial, cultural, and  
15 religious backgrounds; and

16 WHEREAS, During the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries,  
17 Caribbean immigrants have faced economic crises in their  
18 countries and so have chosen to come to the United States for  
19 better economic and educational opportunities; and

1           WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have become leaders in every  
2 sector of the country while maintaining the varied traditions  
3 of their countries of origin; and

4           WHEREAS, Vice President Kamala Harris, the first female  
5 vice president of the United States, is of Jamaican heritage;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Colin Powell, the first African-American  
8 Secretary of State who additionally served as the United  
9 States National Security Advisor and chairman of the Joint  
10 Chiefs of Staff, was of Jamaican heritage; and

11           WHEREAS, Festus Claudius "Claude" McKay, the writer and  
12 poet who became a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance,  
13 was born in Jamaica; and

14           WHEREAS, James Weldon Johnson, Harlem Renaissance poet and  
15 author of the Black national anthem "Lift Every Voice and  
16 Sing", was of Bahamian and Haitian heritage; and

17           WHEREAS, Celia Cruz, the late famous Salsa singer, was  
18 born in Cuba; and

19           WHEREAS, Midwin Charles, a former attorney and legal  
20 analyst for CNN and MSNBC, was of Haitian heritage; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, the chair of the Health  
2 Equity Task Force under the Biden administration, hails from  
3 St. Thomas of the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

4           WHEREAS, Sidney Poitier, the first Black actor to receive  
5 the Academy Award for Best Actor, was of Bahamian heritage;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Shirley Chisholm, the first Black congresswoman  
8 and the first Black woman to run for president, was of  
9 Barbadian and Guyanese heritage; and

10           WHEREAS, Carlos Juan Finlay, the epidemiologist who  
11 discovered that Yellow Fever was transmitted by the *Stegomyia*  
12 *aegypti* mosquito, was Cuban; and

13           WHEREAS, Oscar de la Renta, the late fashion designer, was  
14 born in the Dominican Republic; and

15           WHEREAS, Malcolm X, the late Nation of Islam spokesman,  
16 was of Grenadian heritage; and

17           WHEREAS, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the Black pioneer  
18 and recognized founder of Chicago, was born in Haiti; and

1           WHEREAS, Harry Belafonte, the Calypso singer and civil  
2 rights activist, is of Jamaican and Martinican heritage; and

3           WHEREAS, Marcus Garvey, the Black nationalist movement  
4 leader, was born in Jamaica; and

5           WHEREAS, John Russwurm, the first Black editor of a U.S.  
6 newspaper and the third African-American to graduate from a  
7 U.S. college, was born in Jamaica; and

8           WHEREAS, Dr. Antonia Novello, the first female U.S.  
9 Surgeon General, hails from Puerto Rico; and

10           WHEREAS, Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman  
11 appointed to the federal bench, was of Nevisian heritage; and

12           WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the U.S.  
13 Treasury, was born on Nevis; and

14           WHEREAS, Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader, is  
15 of Kittitians and Jamaican heritage; and

16           WHEREAS, Stokley Carmichael, the late Black Power  
17 activist, was born in Trinidad; and

18           WHEREAS, Kelsey Grammer, the Emmy-winning actor of the

1 sitcom *Frasier*, hails from St. Thomas of the U.S. Virgin  
2 Islands; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. William Thornton, the British-American  
4 physician and architect who designed the U.S. Capitol, was  
5 born on Jost van Dyke of the British Virgin Islands; and

6 WHEREAS, A number of Caribbean-American leaders are based  
7 in Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Marie Lynn Toussaint, the Cook County Assistant  
9 Public Defender and chairperson of the Haitian Congress to  
10 Fortify Haiti, is of Haitian heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, Cesar Rolon, a leader of the community  
12 organization Illinois Unidos, which addresses COVID-19 in  
13 Latin communities, is of Puerto Rican heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, Rafael Nunez-Cedeno, the founder and president of  
15 the Dominican American Midwest Association, is of Dominican  
16 heritage; and

17 WHEREAS, Anton and Anthony Downing, Chicago firefighters  
18 and house flippers, are of Bahamian heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have contributed greatly to

1 education, the fine arts, business, literature, journalism,  
2 sports, fashion, politics, the government, the military,  
3 music, science, technology, and other areas in the United  
4 States; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we declare the month of June 2022 as Caribbean-American  
8 Heritage Month in the State of Illinois; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to Governor JB Pritzker, House Speaker Emanuel  
11 "Chris" Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, House Minority  
12 Leader Jim Durkin, and Senate Minority Leader Dan McConchie.