

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

House Resolution

A resolution designating May 2023 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

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:

49

HR 8085

2023

50           That May 2023 is designated as "Haitian Heritage Month" in  
51 the State of Florida, and all communities and individuals  
52 throughout the state and nation are encouraged to honor Haitian  
53 and Haitian-American culture and remember that America's  
54 greatness lies in its diversity.