

## House Resolution 160

By: Representatives McLeod of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Hutchinson of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the many contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the State of  
2 Georgia and the United States and recognizing March 14, 2019, as Caribbean American Day  
3 at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, many people of Caribbean American heritage have made political and military  
5 contributions to weave the fabric of the United States since its inception, including Senator  
6 Kamala Harris, the first woman of Caribbean heritage and second black woman in the  
7 nation's history to serve in Congress' upper chamber; Alexander Hamilton, who was born in  
8 the Caribbean and was a founding father and Chief Staff Aide to George Washington;  
9 Crispus Attucks, the first person to give his life for the freedom of the United States;  
10 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, a presidential candidate and the first black woman  
11 elected to Congress; General Colin Powell, the 65th United States Secretary of State and  
12 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War; United States  
13 Representative Yvette Clark, who accompanied President Obama to Jamaica; Eric Holder,  
14 the Attorney General under President Obama's administration; Sharon Lawson, the award-  
15 winning journalist and anchor of Good Day Atlanta on FOX 5; Uldeen Lee, one of the first  
16 women of color to receive a Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Science from Lock  
17 Haven University in Pennsylvania and a former president of the Antigua and Barbuda  
18 Association of Georgia; and Ruel "Rula" Brown, founder and executive director of Peace and  
19 Love Academic Scholarship, Inc., and CEO of Qualitex Designs and Bee Cat Records; and

20 WHEREAS, the Caribbean American diaspora has made and enhanced every facet of our  
21 society, including the arts and humanities as giants of music and literature, spurring the  
22 economy as intrepid entrepreneurs, and making new discoveries as scientists and engineers;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the Caribbean boasts the fastest person in the world, and one of the most  
25 popular and recognizable individuals, Olympian and track star Usain Bolt; and

26 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans take extreme pride in sharing their culture through music  
27 around the world. They created musical genres such as reggae, soca, reggaeton, salsa,  
28 merengue, steel pan music, and other genres, influencing the imprint on the music in the  
29 mainstream United States as well as the universe; and

30 WHEREAS, Caribbean musical contributors range from Harry Belafonte, who popularized  
31 calypso music around the world, DJ Kool Herc, who founded hip hop music, Rihanna, Nicki  
32 Minaj, Maxi Priest, Shaggy, Heavy D, Lenny Kravitz, Maxwell, salsa queen Celia Cruz, and  
33 Bob Marley, who introduced reggae music to the world and is one of the most recognizable  
34 Caribbean persons to this day; and

35 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans such as Kerry Washington, Sidney Poitier, Madge  
36 Sinclair, Harry Belafonte, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Roxie Roker, Al Roker, and others commanded  
37 television, stage, and screen while entertaining the world, exemplifying outstanding public  
38 figures who have made a significant impact on millions of individuals; and

39 WHEREAS, Caribbean people around the world host colorful festivities, filled with lively  
40 music, unique dancing, traditional attire, and vibrant dishes, and the delicious cuisines of the  
41 Caribbean are among the favorites in the world; and

42 WHEREAS, many individuals of Caribbean American heritage contributed to humanities  
43 and literature, including Claude McKay, W.E.B. Du Bois, Jamaica Kincaid, and others; and

44 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have made a great impact on the economy. They  
45 encompass all aspects of economic growth in the United States, from the farms of Florida to  
46 the board rooms of New York City, and are the committed workers, investors, and consumers  
47 contributing to the improvement and economic success of the United States; and

48 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans are hardworking people who departed the shores of their  
49 beautiful countries to embark on improved opportunities in America and around the world,  
50 and by opening its doors to immigrants, the United States gave them a chance to pursue their  
51 dreams, utilize their intellectual gifts, and hone their skills in a way that has made a  
52 substantial and positive difference to the nation, themselves, their children, and future  
53 generations.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
55 the members of this body commend Caribbean Americans for the many contributions they

56 have made to the State of Georgia and the United States and recognize March 14, 2019, as  
57 Caribbean American Day at the state capitol.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
59 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
60 public and the press.