

## House Resolution 1695

By: Representatives Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>, Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 21, 2016, as Caribbean American Heritage Day at the state capitol; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in June, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted a  
4 resolution sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of  
5 Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, the resolution similarly passed the U.S. Senate; and

7 WHEREAS, the campaign to designate June as National Caribbean American Heritage  
8 Month was spearheaded by Dr. Claire Nelson, Founder and President of the Institute of  
9 Caribbean Studies; and

10 WHEREAS, since the declaration, the White House has issued an annual proclamation  
11 recognizing June as Caribbean American Heritage Month; and

12 WHEREAS, June, 2016, marks the eleventh anniversary of National Caribbean American  
13 Heritage Month; and

14 WHEREAS, emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early  
15 as 1619, and, since that time, millions of people have come from the Caribbean to the United  
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, people of Caribbean descent reside in every part of the United States and have  
18 influenced American culture, society, and government; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is one of the most culturally enriched and diverse states in  
20 the southeastern United States and is home to many Caribbean Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, incorporated by the State of Georgia on February 29, 2012, the Caribbean  
22 American Advancement Foundation, Inc., which is led by Georgian Courtney McFarlane,  
23 exists to advocate for the progressive advancement of social, cultural, educational, political,  
24 and economic improvements to challenges facing Caribbean American communities across  
25 the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, the members of this body are happy to host the following leaders at the capitol  
27 on Caribbean American Heritage Day: Courtney McFarlane, President of the Caribbean  
28 American Advancement Foundation, Inc.; Mrs. Jewel Scott, Esq., Honorary Consul of  
29 Jamaica to Atlanta, Georgia; Donna McLeod, President of Community Action Network  
30 Initiatives, Inc.; Erika Mitchell, State Director of the Miss Teen Georgia Latina Pageant;  
31 Elon Rodney, Board Member, Caribbean American Advancement Foundation, Inc.; Verna  
32 Muthoni, President of Sensemaya the Storyteller; Jacques Duplessis, President, Caribbean  
33 Focus TV; Rose Fandal, Manager, Caribbean Focus TV; Cherrie Gardens, Host, Caribbean  
34 Focus TV; Korrie Renee, Host, Caribbean Focus TV; Chris Scott, President of the Caribbean  
35 Association of Georgia; Henrietta Turnquest, Esq., former Georgia House legislator; Wayne  
36 Hall, President, Reggae Vibes Radio; Patricia Henry, President of the Atlanta Caribbean  
37 Carnival Bandleaders Association; Arthlene Laudat, President, LeGair Brand LTD.; Wayne  
38 Walters, President of Gold Star Security Systems; Lisa Georgia, President of Unity  
39 Foundation; Ben and Angella Blair; Tina Badoo, Miss Teen Georgia Caribbean United  
40 States; Kristen Badoo, Miss Georgia Caribbean; Ezron Benjamin, President, 106  
41 Liveradio.com; Larry Pellegrini, Georgia Rural Urban Summit; and Randy Muth, Executive  
42 Director of Angkor Resource Center, Inc.; and

43 WHEREAS, there have been many famous and influential Caribbean Americans in the  
44 history of the United States, and Caribbean Americans have contributed greatly to education,  
45 fine arts, business, sports, science, and many other areas, positively affecting the lives of all  
46 citizens in this state; and

47 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement  
48 and the labor movement, and they continue to make important contributions to social and  
49 political issues facing Georgia and the nation.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
51 the members of this body recognize March 21, 2016, as Caribbean American Heritage Day  
52 at the state capitol and commend Caribbean Americans everywhere for their contributions  
53 to the State of Georgia.

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