

House Resolution 645

By: Representatives Stovall of the 74th, Glanton of the 75th, Scott of the 76th, Sharper of the 177th, and Burnough of the 77th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the many contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the State of
2 Georgia and the United States and recognizing March 22, 2017, 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; and Eric
14 Holder, the Attorney General under President Obama's administration; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body commend Caribbean Americans for the many contributions they
51 have made to the State of Georgia and the United States and recognize March 22, 2017, as
52 Caribbean American Day at the state capitol.

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