



Institute of Caribbean Studies

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The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1993 and dedicated to research, policy analysis, and education with a focus on issues that impact the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora. The purpose of the Institute is to provide a forum for scholars, the private sector, the non-government organization community and others interested in promoting a dialogue on Caribbean issues. The Institute seeks to address economic development problems facing Caribbean society, and to adopt a thorough, systematic and coordinated long-term perspective towards their resolution.

Since its inception, ICS has been on the forefront of the challenge to bring attention to the issues of critical importance to the Caribbean American community, which numbers over 3 million. ICS represents an important role in history as the first Caribbean-American community organization in the Washington DC area devoted to the successful inclusion of Caribbean-Americans in US policy making, and the economic development of the Caribbean region. ICS has built up a unique network of knowledgeable and committed individuals with expertise in a variety of sectors.

ICS's location in Washington DC makes it an ideal interlocutor, advocate and intermediary between the US government, multilateral agencies, the private sector, Caribbean-American communities, and Caribbean governments, communities, and organizations in the region. ICS enjoys the respect of a significant proportion of the Caribbean-American community, as well as the Caribbean diplomatic corps. ICS has established and will continue to develop partnerships and collaborative relationships with local and national organizations in the US and the Caribbean, such as the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Global Rights Law Group, National Minority Suppliers Development Council, World Bank/IMF Caribbean Staff Association, Caribbean Research Center, and the Caribbean Policy Development Center to meet its objectives, particularly those in the area of economic development and policy making.

ICS is dedicated to building bridges between Caribbean Americans and the US population at large and advocating for the economic welfare of the Caribbean American community. Together with partner organizations with industry, government and civil society, we have built the foundation to make the Institute of Caribbean Studies, the leading Caribbean American organization in Washington, DC. Our mission is to provide our partners with solutions to the challenges they face, that will enable their survival, growth, and prosperity in the ever changing global marketplace, by providing world class research and action that supports their missions.

The organizational structure of the ICS provides an established framework within which 'Caribbeanists' can be mobilized to address issues of concern and implement research and/or program initiatives. This includes a Private Sector Council and a Research Council.

ICS program areas are designed to:

- To promote the increased participation of Caribbean Americans in the US economic and policy agenda.
- To facilitate increased educational exchanges between Caribbean and American peoples.
- To foster increased cooperation between the Caribbean and other developing country regions, such as Latin America and Africa, as well as the developed countries of Canada and Europe.
- To facilitate the participation of, and discussion with, the Caribbean Diaspora around the world on issues pertaining to Caribbean development.

In keeping with its holistic philosophy of development, the Institute develops and supports programs which serve a multiplicity of interests-- the community leader, the business person, the policy-maker, and the scholar, across various sectors. The program areas include: Economic Development, Science & Technology, Education & Health, and Sociology & Culture.

Our goal for economic development is to increase the participation of Caribbean Americans in the U.S. business sector, to promote increased trade and investment between the US and the Caribbean, and to support entrepreneurial development and micro-enterprise development in the Caribbean. Our work includes creating linkages between US small and disadvantaged businesses and Caribbean businesses, entrepreneurial development and skills training for youth with particular reference to, and acting as an interlocutor and facilitator for creating partnerships between US transnational corporations and the Caribbean American community.

Our goal in the area of science and technology is improve the level and quality of technical assistance provided to the Caribbean region, to support improvements in the access, development and use of science and technology across all sectors, and the increased access of disadvantaged communities in the Caribbean to information technology. Our current agenda is the support of Computer centers in disadvantaged centers in the Caribbean and the development of exchange and linkages programs to support science education in the Caribbean such as support for the establishment of children's science centers.

Our goals in education and health include increasing transfer of technology to the Caribbean region; ensuring Caribbean Americans equity in health care; and supporting the provision of increased educational opportunities to disadvantaged populations in the Caribbean. This includes assisting in the establishment of linkage programs between historically Black colleges and universities.

Our goal in sociology and culture include: assisting the Caribbean-American community to participate in US democratic processes; promoting the conservation and development of Caribbean arts and culture, and promoting an understanding of Caribbean culture in the US. Our current focus in this area is the establishment of June as Caribbean Heritage Month in the Washington DC metropolitan region and the production of the DC Caribbean Film Festival.

Some ICS Accomplishments

The Institute's activities include workshops, seminars, symposia, and conferences. A selected listing of our exemplary accomplishments includes:

- **1993** - Young Technocrats Technology Summer Youth Camp in Jamaica
- **1994** - Symposium on Economic Development with Caribbean Ministers of Finance, with Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts & Nevis
- **1994** - Launch Caribbean American Heritage Awards with Congressman Kweisi Mfume
- **1995** - Caribbean Pavilion at the Congressional Black Caucus(CBC) Annual Legislative Conference
- **1996** - Participation in Caribbean Brain Trust at CBC Legislative Conference
- **1996** - Video Documentary on the Caribbean community in Montgomery County, Maryland
- **1996** - Represent Caribbean Diaspora at CARICOM Heads of Government Conference
- **1996** - Educational Seminar for Chaconia Mutual Fund
- **1996** - Private Visit of Prime Minister of Barbados to Washington DC
- **1997** - Agribusiness Taskforce/Historically Black College & Universities Visit to Jamaica
- **1998** - Health Sector Lunch Symposium with Ministers of Health
- **1998** - Private Visit of Prime Minister of St. Lucia to Washington D.C.
- **1999** - First US/Caribbean Legislative Forum on Capitol Hill
- **1999** - First White House Briefing on Caribbean American Issues
- **2000** - Caribbean-American Leadership Dialogue, World Bank
- **2000** - Participation in Bellagio Consultation on UN World Conference Against Racism (UNWCAR)
- **2000** - Launch Promotion of June as Caribbean American Heritage Month in Washington D.C.
- **2001** - Organize Public Briefings of CARICOM Secretary General in Washington DC
- **2001** - Production of 30 second Television PSA in support of the UNWCAR
- **2001** - Organize Caribbean NGOs at NGO Conference at UNWCAR in Durban
- **2001** - First Annual DC Caribbean Film Festival for Caribbean American Heritage Month

- **2001** - Planning Support for Caribbean Brain Trust at the Congressional Black Caucus Conference
- **2001** - Caribbean American Leadership Dialogue, International Monetary Fund
- **2002** - Arts Empowerment Summer Camp, Operation Restoration, Kingston, Jamaica
- **2002** - Launch Annual CBC Friends of the Caribbean Appreciation Lunch, Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis as Keynote Speaker
- **2002** - Moderator, Caribbean Brain Trust for Congressional Black Caucus Conference
- **2002** - Establish CARICOM Congressional Intern Fellowship Program
- **2003** - Develop Youth Entrepreneur Success Seminar Initiative (YESS)
- **2003** - Launch Caribbean Community Development Venture Capital Fund Initiative
- **2004** - HIV/AIDS Prevention Popular Education Project aired on WBEA FM
- **2004** - Founding Partner in SOCA DE VOTE Voter Education Project
- **2004** - Spearhead Hurricane Ivan Relief Efforts with DC Caribbean Carnival
- **2004** - Prime Minister of Grenada, Hon. Dr. Keith Mitchell Keynote at Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala
- **2005** - ICS recognized in the US Congressional Record by Congressman Charles Rangel
- **2005** - Chief Minister of Turks & Caicos, Dr. Michael Misick, Keynote Speaker at Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala.

2005

Presentation to Congress By Hon. Rangle on ICS

HONORABLE CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 23, 2005

EXPLORING THE CARIBBEAN: THE INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES

MR. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the significant work of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), a magnificent organization that highlights and explores the linkages between the Caribbean and the United States. Today, Representative Barbara Lee, Representative Donna Christian-Christensen, and I hosted a meeting the Institute of Caribbean Studies in the Rayburn Building. I thank these wonderful congresswomen for joining me in our effort to raise the awareness and provide an opportunity for this Congress to explore the dynamics of the Caribbean economy, culture, and global appeal.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies works to find common links between the American public and the people of the Caribbean. It explores different avenues of change and development that are common to our two regions and seeks opportunities to nurture those developments to our collective best interests. This group is working to build a stronger economic, social, and cultural bond between two important regions of the world.

At their legislative forum today, the panels addressed the growing importance of the border security, economic development, disaster assistance, and human security. Panelists such as Foreign Minister of the Bahamas Fred Mitchell, the Jamaican Ambassador Gordon Shirley, the St. Lucian Ambassador Sonia Johnny, and the Grenadian Ambassador Denis Antonie examined various causes, effects, and responses to the challenges of linking the Caribbean and the US . Their discussion and assessments provided important insight into the solutions and opportunities for advancement in the region.

I thank the panelists and participants for their thoughts, opinions, and wisdom on developing and encouraging a stronger linkage between our two parts of the world. I particularly would like to thank Dr. Claire Nelson, the President and Founder of the Institute, for her leadership and direction in the activities of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. I am sure that under her continued helm the organization will become a valuable resource for Congress and its deliberations on improved international relations.

I submit for the Record a copy of the mission statement and goals of the organization. I hope my colleagues will put this organization to use in developing responsible policies toward the Caribbean.

The History of National Caribbean American Heritage Month

- **1994** – Inception of Caribbean American Heritage Awards to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the growth and development of America.
- **1998** - Washington DC based Caribbean American group also known as the AdHoc Caribbean Council organized the first Caribbean American Heritage Month in Washington DC.
- **1999** - First White House Briefing on Caribbean American issues by a Caribbean Non Governmental Organization and request to President Clinton to proclaim August as Caribbean American Heritage Month.
- **2000** – Federal campaign initiated to proclaim June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month.
- **2004** – Federal Bill HR570 drafted by ICS in collaboration with the Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee and presented to the House with 65 co-sponsors.
- **2004** – On June 1st a reception was hosted by ICS on Capitol Hill to commemorate the month and promote HR570.
- **2005** - ICS hosted reception on Capitol Hill to promote awareness of the Bill and Congressman Charles Rangel issues Congressional Resolution commending ICS for Leadership on Caribbean American issues.
- **2005** - Congresswoman Lee reintroduced the Bill as House Concurrent Resolution 71 with 81 bipartisan co-sponsors that originated from 26 states plus American Samoa, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. **List of States:** AZ, CA, FL, GA, KS, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, OH, NC, NJ, NY, NV, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI

Brown, Corrine-FL; Jones, Stephanie Tubbs-OH; Johnson, Eddie Bernice-TX; Christensen, Donna-VI; Meeks, Gregory-NY; Kilpatrick, Carolyn-MI; Serrano, Jose-NY; Payne, Donald-NJ; Rangel, Charles-NY; Towns, Edolphus-NY; Watt, Melvin-NC; Van Hollen, Chris-MD; Lewis, John-GA; Rush, Bobby L-IL; Owens, Major R-NY; Kucinich, Dennis-OH; Weiner, Anthony-NY; Cummings, Elijah-MD; Norton, Eleanor Holmes-DC; Lantos, Tom-CA; Hastings, Alcee-FL; Ford, Harold, Jr.-TN; Engel, Eliot-NY; Meek, Kendrick-FL; Clay, Wm. Lacy-MO; Jefferson, William-LA; Grijalva, Raul-AZ; Waters, Maxine-CA; Jackson-Lee, Sheila-TX; Woolsey, Lynn-CA; Kaptur, Marcy-OH; Butterfield, G. K.-NC; Solis, Hilda-CA; McCarthy, Carolyn-NY; McKinney, Cynthia A-GA; Shimkus, John-IL; Clyburn, James-SC; Gutierrez, Luis-IL; Ryan, Tim-OH; Millender-McDonald, Juanita-CA; Wynn, Albert Russell- MD; McDermott, Jim-WA; Wexler, Robert-FL; Carson, Julia-IN; Capuano, Michael-MA; Honda, Michael M-CA; Thompson, Bennie-MS; Burton, Dan-IN; Scott, David-GA; Moran, James-VA; Kuhl, John R. "Randy", Jr.-NY; Bishop, Sanford D., Jr.-GA; Frank, Barney-MA; Berkley, Shelley-NV; Napolitano, Grace F-CA; Conyers, John, Jr.-MI; Maloney, Carolyn-NY; Nadler, Jerrold-NY; Davis, Jim-FL; Brown, Sherrod-OH; Velazquez, Nydia M-NY; Faleomavaega, Eni F. H. -AS; McCollum, Betty-MN; Slaughter, Louise McIntosh -NY; Becerra, Xavier-CA; McGovern, James P.-MA; Crowley, Joseph -NY; Delahunt, William-MA; Berman, Howard-CA; Farr, Sam-CA; Fattah, Chaka-PA; Menendez, Robert-NJ; Green, Al-TX; Pallone, Frank, Jr.-NJ; Moore, Gwen-WI; Schakowsky, Janice D.-IL; Fortuno, Luis G.-PR; Lofgren, Zoe-CA; Bordallo, Madeleine Z.-GU; Davis, Danny K-IL; Feeney, Tom-FL

- a) **2/17/2005:** Bill referred to the House Committee on Government Reform.
 - b) **6/16/2005:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
 - c) **6/16/2005:** Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent
 - d) **5/26/2005:** Introductory remarks on measure.
 - e) **6/27/2005 2:47pm:** Mr. Dent, Republican of Pennsylvania, moved to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.
 - f) **6/27/2005 2:48pm:** Considered under suspension of the rules
 - g) **6/27/2005 2:54pm:** On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution Agreed to by voice vote.
 - h) **June 27, 2005-** US Congress passed House Con. Res. 71 declaring June as Caribbean American Heritage Month.
 - i) **6/27/2005 2:54pm:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table and agreed to without objection.
 - j) **6/28/2005:** Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
 - k) **2006** - Senator Schumer introduced HR71 to the Senate.
 - l) **2/14/2006:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
 - m) **2/14/2006:** Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.
 - n) **2/14/2006:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **2006** – ICS formed Caribbean American Heritage Month Foundation to spearhead initiatives for the celebration of June

2004

The House

Speech By Hon. Barbara Lee

INTRODUCTION OF THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

LEGISLATION –

(Extensions of Remarks - March 17, 2004)

[Page: E401]

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean-Americans from the inception of our country to the present.

Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisolm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who helped shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture.

Many of us in Congress focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean--Cuba and Haiti--and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Suriname to the Bahamas and from Belize to Barbados.

The recent revitalization of a bi-partisan Congressional Caribbean Caucus forced many of us to re-evaluate the policy between CARICOM and the United States, and to discuss proposed and pending U.S. legislation that will have a direct impact on bilateral relations.

It is also important that we remember that our policies in the Caribbean affect the relatives of our constituents. I wrote this resolution to remind the American public that there are Caribbean-Americans who reside in every state of the union, and make sure that are recognized and celebrated.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge their service to our society.

END

2005

The House

The Bill Reintroduced in 109th Congress

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month. (Introduced in House)

HCON 71 IH
109th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. CON. RES. 71

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a
Caribbean -American Heritage Month.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 17, 2005

Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FORD, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean - American Heritage Month.

Whereas people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;

Whereas during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;

Whereas since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;

Whereas much like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas the independence movements in many countries in the Caribbean during the 1960's and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean ;

Whereas there have been many influential Caribbean -Americans in the history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President; and Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music;

Whereas the many influential Caribbean -Americans in the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist; Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality;

Whereas Caribbean -Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean -Americans have contributed greatly to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other areas in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean -Americans share their culture through carnivals, festivals, music, dance, film, and literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States third border;

Whereas the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the

Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world; and

Whereas June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean -American Heritage Month : Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that--

(1) a Caribbean -American Heritage Month should be established; and

(2) the people of the United States should observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

2005**The House****House Presentation in 109th Congress by Hon Alcee L. Hastings****SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A
CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH –**

(Extensions of Remarks - July 12, 2005)

SPEECH OF **HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS** OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71, a resolution supporting the establishment of a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution is admirable and deeply appreciated in its recognition and celebration of the Caribbean-American community and of the contributions that community has made to every sphere of American life.

The American spirit is a tapestry that weaves cultures together, one in which people of all traditions and walks of life convene to better protect and educate one another. The Caribbean-American people are an invaluable part of his tapestry, and their influence has stretched to every field of American society, culture and politics.

The State of Florida is especially indebted to the Caribbean-American community, enjoying one of the largest and most flourishing Caribbean-American populations in the nation. The contributions of this community to Florida's economy, educational system, politics and culture, and indeed to all areas of our society, are of the greatest importance to our state and to our country.

I am so privileged to represent people of virtually every single Caribbean heritage. From Lauderhill to Miramar to West Palm Beach to Oakland Park, I am honored to work on behalf of all of these communities and many more.

As early as the 17th Century, Caribbean men and women journeyed to find new lives in America. Our regions have endured similarly difficult pasts. We shared a struggle against slavery, we shared a fight for independence, and now we share the strong ties built on social equality and democratic government.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has been profoundly shaped by the achievements of its Caribbean-American citizens. Whether in technology, science, the military, fashion, politics, government, business, education or journalism, the achievements of Caribbean-Americans have been immense and invaluable.

Some of the most revered figures in American art have come from the Caribbean-American community: actors, musicians, politicians, authors, educators and so many others. All of them have played central roles in the cultural development of this country.

This resolution enjoys strong bipartisan support including mine because it is critical for this body to acknowledge and appreciate those who contribute to America's unique and highly respected culture. I am proud to lend my support to this most excellent resolution, I urge my colleagues to do the same.

END

2005

The Senate

HCON 71 RFS – Passed the House June 27th 2005 and presented to senate on June 28th2005

109th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. CON. RES. 71

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 28, 2005

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month

Whereas people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;

Whereas emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;

Whereas during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;

Whereas since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;

Whereas much like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;

Whereas also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds;

Whereas the independence movements in many countries in the Caribbean during the 1960's and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;

Whereas there have been many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President; and Celia Cruz, the world renowned queen of Salsa music;

Whereas the many influential Caribbean-Americans in the history of the United States also include Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Marion Jones, an Olympic gold medalist; Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the baseball hall of fame; and Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans have played an active role in the civil rights

movement and other social and political movements in the United States;
Whereas Caribbean-Americans have contributed greatly to education, fine arts, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, technology, and other areas in the United States;

Whereas Caribbean-Americans share their culture through carnivals, festivals, music, dance, film, and literature that enrich the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;

Whereas the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States third border;

Whereas the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world; and

Whereas June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that--

- (1) a Caribbean-American Heritage Month should be established; and
- (2) the people of the United States should observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities.

Passed the House of Representatives June 27, 2005.

Attest: JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.

END

The US Senate Action

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH –

(Senate - February 14, 2006)

[Page: S1320]

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 71 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71), was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

END

2006

New York State Senate Bill

SUMMARY:

J4314 ANDREWS

Senators Andrews, Hassell-Thompson, Montgomery and Parker

STATUS:

J4314 ANDREWS

Resolutions, Legislative

TITLE....Memorializing The Honorable George E. Pataki to designate June 2006 as "Caribbean American Heritage Month" in the State of New York

03/29/06 REFERRED TO FINANCE

04/04/06 REPORTED TO CALENDAR FOR CONSIDERATION

04/04/06 ADOPTED

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing The Honorable George E. Pataki to designate June 2006 as "Caribbean American Heritage Month" in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and celebrate individuals, groups and events which add vitality, sensitivity, understanding and inspiration to the diversity and value of the people of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize The Honorable George E. Pataki to designate June 2006 as "Caribbean American Heritage Month" in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In commemoration of this auspicious occasion, the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), Commemorative Committee of New York will be staging, as well as coordinating, a number of events; some of these events include: a high school student's essay writing contest; Haitian Creole Fest; Puerto Rican Day Parade; CTO Tourism Week; Rajkumarie's Cultural Center's Kitchri; Medgar Evers College Caribbean Conference and Book Fair; Hearts of Brooklyn exhibition, as well as a number of art exhibitions around the City; and

WHEREAS, People of Caribbean ancestry have made significant contributions that are reflected in their cultural, social, educational, industrial and economic diversity, and have contributed in many ways, including as writers, educators, athletes, social activists, secretaries of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, artists, entertainers, entrepreneurs, businessmen/women, military personnel and religious leaders; and

WHEREAS, People of Caribbean ancestry who have become part of New York State's lasting heritage by fighting against stereotypes, racism, and insurmountable obstacles include, but are not limited to: Arthur Alfonso Shomburg, Curator of the New York Public Library's Division of Negro Literature, History, and Prints, and dedicated historian, writer and collector; Malcolm X, a prominent figure in the black social movement of the 1960s; Sidney Poitier, who altered the perception of race through theatre and screen as actor, producer and director; Colin Powell, a four-star United States Army General and eventually, Secretary of State; Alexander Hamilton, who became Congressman, founder of the Bank of New York, first Secretary of the Treasury and one of the first supporters of the Constitution; Jean Michel Basquiat, who revolutionized the world of painting and drawing through the social introduction

of the urban black culture that marginally existed in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, New York State has been, and continues to be, the home to many distinguished people of Caribbean ancestry who have made their mark in history as pertinent figures in their field, and who have succeeded; these figures include: Shirley A. Chisholm, first African American woman elected to Congress, and who was also the co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a genuine activist, lecturer, and political mentor; Marcus Mozhiah Garvey, established, among other things, the United Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.); Susan Taylor, editor in-chief of *Essence* magazine; Harry Belafonte, who used his fame as an entertainer in the cause for human rights; Hazel Scott, who achieved acclaimed status for her classical and Jazz technique as a pianist, and who became the first black woman to have her own television show; Edwidge Danticat, who invigorated the voices of Haitians and Haitian Americans who experienced poverty through her writing; Maryse Conde, acclaimed international author, who now teaches at Columbia University in New York in the French and Romance Philology Department; and Maurice

Ashley, the first African American to win the chess Grandmaster title; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to the people of Caribbean ancestry who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to officially designate June 2006 as "Caribbean American Heritage Month" in the State of New York, a time to recognize the unique and enduring contributions of people of Caribbean ancestry throughout New York State and the Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York; The Institute for Caribbean Studies; The Inter-American Economic Council; The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry; South Florida Caribbean Diaspora Task Force; Caribbean Professional Networking Series; Caribbean World Arts & Culture, Inc.; Caribbean Bar Association; and HAMPTONIANS NEW YORK (Hampton School, Jamaica Alumni Organization).

Press Release

June 2004

PR By Rep. Barbara Lee

Help Create a Caribbean-American Heritage Month
By Cosponsoring H. Res. 570

I invite you to be a co-sponsor of H. Res. 570, a resolution to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Few realize that people of Caribbean descent reside in every state of the union.

From 1820 to 2002, more than 68,000,000 people emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States; Caribbean-Americans have influenced every aspect of American culture, society and government.

This is not a partisan issue; their history is interwoven with ours. Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisolm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge their service to our society.

Please contact Jamila Thompson of my staff to become a co-sponsor of H. Res. 570.

Sincerely
Barbara Lee,
Member of Congress

Monday June 27, 2005

House Approves Barbara Lee's Bill to Create Caribbean American Heritage Month (Washington, DC) – Today, the House of Representatives approved H.Con.Res 71, a bill introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) to designate a national Caribbean-American Heritage month.

"Establishing Caribbean American Heritage month will celebrate the contributions of millions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States since the inception of the country," said Lee.

Last week, Congresswoman Lee co-hosted the annual U.S. Caribbean Legislative Forum where His Excellency Fred Mitchell, Foreign Affairs Minister of the Bahamas delivered the keynote address, and Jamaican Ambassador Gordon Shirley, St. Lucian Ambassador Sonia Johnny, and Grenadian Ambassador Dennis Antoine moderated panels. Many other representatives of the Caribbean diplomatic corps, including recently-elected Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, attended. This event is an example of annual programming for the June Caribbean-American Heritage Month celebration activities.

As a member of Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee and the bipartisan Caribbean Caucus, Rep. Lee wanted to recognize the role that Caribbean people and their descendants have played in the

United States.

"The Caribbean-American community is a true melting pot of languages, cultures, and people. Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Susan Taylor, Edwidge Danticat, Kelsey Grammer, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Roberto Clemente, Maryse Condé, Cicely Tyson, Harry Belafonte, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture," said Lee. "Their story is inseparable from ours."

For Immediate Release
2/14/06

Senate Approves Lee Bill to Create Caribbean American Heritage Month

(Washington, DC) – The Senate this evening unanimously approved a bill authored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) to designate a national Caribbean-American Heritage month. The bill acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States since the inception of the country.

"Establishing a Caribbean-American heritage month will help pay tribute to the tremendous contributions Caribbean-Americans have made throughout the history of this country," said Lee. "They have influenced every aspect of American culture, society and government. Their history is interwoven with ours and should be recognized and celebrated."

"I appreciate the bipartisan support of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate, especially Senator Schumer, in passing this measure, and I hope that President Bush will act quickly to designate June as national Caribbean-American month," said Lee.

Lee's bill (H. Con. Res. 71) was approved by the House on June 27, 2005 and had 81co-sponsors and support from more than 40 non-governmental organizations working on Caribbean-American issues.

Under Congress' rules established in the 104th Congress, only the President has the authority to designate a period for annual national recognition of a community or cause. Congress may express the opinion that there is cause for such recognition; H. Con. Res. 71 is an example of such an effort. Though the bill is non-binding, Lee plans to work with supporters to urge President Bush to follow Congress' lead by proclaiming June national Caribbean American Heritage month in time for official celebrations this summer.

As the most senior Democratic Woman on the House International Relations Committee, and a member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Lee has worked to strengthen U.S. – Caribbean relations and wanted to raise awareness about the role that Caribbean people and their descendents have played in the United States.

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Press Release

Senator Schumer Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2006

SCHUMER USHERS RESOLUTION THROUGH SENATE TO DESIGNATE MONTH OF JUNE AS CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Bill recognizes and celebrates the unique and extensive contributions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States

Schumer shepherded legislation through the Senate, where it passed with unanimous consent last night

Today U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer announced that a bill to designate the month of June as Caribbean-American Heritage month passed the Senate with unanimous consent last night. The bill passed the House unanimously on June 27, 2005 after being introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland). It was then referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee and Schumer guided it through to quick passage in the Senate.

"Today is a great day for the Caribbean-Americans who have a special place in the American community. This bill symbolically recognizes the extensive contributions that Caribbean Americans have made to this nation," Schumer said. "With over 3 million Caribbean-Americans in the United States, it is fitting that we recognize the rich heritage this community has shared with the country, especially here in New York, and my hometown of Brooklyn, where we have the largest Caribbean population in the country. There is nothing I like more than walking or biking up Flatbush Avenue to Church Avenue amidst the unparalleled Caribbean Diaspora, listening to soca, reggae and calypso. It is the song of New York; it is the song of the American Dream being sung by a new generation of pioneers."

Millions have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States have influenced every aspect of American culture, society and government. The bill acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States since the inception of the country and designates June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

"Establishing Caribbean American Heritage month will celebrate the contributions of millions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States since the inception of the country," said Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA).

As a member on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee and the bipartisan Caribbean Caucus, Rep. Lee wanted to recognize the role that Caribbean people and their descendants have played in the United States.

Jean Michel Basquiat, Colin Powell, Kelsey Grammer, Roberto Clemente, Maryse Condé, Cicely Tyson, Harry Belafonte, Celia Cruz, and Shirley Chisholm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who have made monumental contributions to all parts of American society.

In the 108th Congress, this bi-partisan effort to create a National Caribbean-American Heritage Month was supported by more than 40 organizations including The Institute for Caribbean Studies, The Inter-American Economic Council, The Caribbean Voice NY, Caribbean Professional Networking Series, Caribbean World Arts & Culture, Inc., Caribbean-American Cultural Association, Inc., and the Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy.

South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Congress wants to declare June Caribbean heritage month

By Alva James-Johnson
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

February 16, 2006

Congress wants to turn June into Caribbean American Heritage Month.

A bill proposing the national designation sailed through the Senate on Tuesday, eight months after it was passed by the House. Now all it needs is President Bush's signature.

The month would recognize the contributions of immigrants not only from Caribbean islands, but from Latin American countries such as Colombia and Mexico that are members of the Association of Caribbean States.

In Florida, the group is now 2.8 million strong, with 442,314 living in Broward County, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. It accounts for 25 percent of the county's population.

"The Caribbean is seen as a place of sun, fun and rum, but there has to be a second look at the Caribbean and its contributions," said Phillip Peters, a Grenadian-American living in Miami. "The best way to do that is by this month."
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Hardbeatnews
2-15-06

U.S. Senate Passes Caribbean Heritage Month Bill

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, (D.CA.), introduced the measure.
Hardbeatnews, WASHINGTON, D.C., Weds. Feb. 15, 2006: A measure that would make June, Caribbean-American Heritage Month, inched closer to reality yesterday, after it was passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. Senate.

The vote comes some eight months after the U.S. Congress also approved the measure, which was introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, (D.CA.) Last night, Dr. Claire Nelson, the head of Washington, D.C.'s Institute for Caribbean Studies, welcomed the passage, calling it the "best Valentine's Day present in a long time."

The bill acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to the United States.

The Jamaican-born Nelson and ICS had worked closely with Lee's office to craft language for a bill, which was first introduced in 2004. "I'm very happy and elated," Nelson told HBN last night. "It shows the potential of our community to be participants of this thing we call a democracy."

President Bush now has to sign the bill to make it law. But Nelson is optimistic, already calling on Caribbean organizations nationally, including those who rallied to help move the bill this far, to contact her with ideas on how the month can be marked. One such idea being contemplated is a heritage essay competition targeting students of Caribbean ancestry attending schools across the U.S.

As Nelson sees it, "We have to focus on the youth. They are our heritage."
The campaign to Recognize June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month had a successful launch on June 1, 2004, in the Rayburn House Building on Capitol

Hill at a Reception hosted by the Institute of Caribbean Studies. Between 2004 and 2005, the campaign gained steam with several Caribbean community organizations signing on as supporters of the bill.

"This national effort is another milestone in the collective journey of the Caribbean American Community as immigrants," Nelson added.

For more information on how you can become part of the National Commemorative Committee, contact Claire Nelson at (202) 907-6140. – Hardbeatnews.com

South Florida Caribbean Net News

<http://southfloridacaribbeannews.com/more39.htm>

February 22, 2006

Move to recognize contribution of Caribbean Americans welcomed

NEW YORK - Elected officials and community leaders from the Caribbean American community have come out in support of the Bill proclaiming June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month in the United States (US), which was passed in the US Senate last Tuesday (Feb.14).

The Bill - House Concurrent Resolution 71 - authored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland, CA) and supported by a number of Caribbean-American concerns, acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of Caribbean Americans to the growth and development of the United States.

Jamaica's Consul General to New York, Dr. Basil K. Bryan said that the unanimous passage of the Bill by the US Senate "shows what can be achieved when we work together for a common cause".

"I too join in welcoming the good news with respect to the passage of the Bill naming the month of June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month. This is important in as much as it recognizes the immense contributions to Caribbean American history and the development of the US society by nationals from the Caribbean and those of Caribbean heritage, which began even before the founding of this country and continuing to this day," he stated.

For Barbara Wilson of Philadelphia, the celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month is an opportunity for the Caribbean community "to stand up and be counted". "Finally! We are grateful to Congresswoman Barbara Lee for realizing that Caribbean immigrants on a whole do contribute to this great nation and should be recognized accordingly," she said.

"It is a proven fact that all over the United States, Caribbean immigrants have assisted in the development and growth of this nation, even though, at times, we are not recognized. Now we will and thanks to Congresswoman Lee," said Ms. Wilson, who is head of the annual Philadelphia Caribbean Festival (Philly Carifest).

And, even as the Bill awaits a presidential proclamation from George W. Bush, the final seal of approval before becoming law, Winston W. Barnaby, Secretary of the West Indian Foundation, Hartford, thinks that so far, "this national effort is another milestone in the collective journey of the Caribbean American community towards self determination".

Since 1999, the Institute of Caribbean Studies along with an adhoc Caribbean group in Washington, DC, have been observing June as Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Press Release

Institute of Caribbean Studies

ICS PR - February 15, 2006

SENATE APPROVES BILL TO DECLARE JUNE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The US Senate approved House Concurrent Resolution declaring JUNE as Caribbean American Heritage Month.

The Campaign to Recognize JUNE as National Caribbean American Heritage Month had a successful launch on June 1, 2004, in the Rayburn House Building on Capitol Hill at a Reception hosted by the Institute of Caribbean Studies, Campaign Chair and leading supporters of the Bill. With over 100 people in attendance Congresswoman Barbara Lee, sponsor of the Bill talked about why such a Bill is important to the process of empowerment for the Caribbean American Community. Ambassador Denis Antoine, of Grenada, and Dean of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps commended the efforts and urged the gathering to work together to make it a reality. Between 2004 and 2005, the Campaign gained steam with several Caribbean community organizations signing on as supporters of the Bill. These included e.g. the Caribbean Association of Industry of Commerce, the Dominica Academy of Arts & Sciences, the Caribbean.

Foundations for the National Bill began as a result of the first White House Briefing to the Caribbean Community in 1999, the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) had been pushing for a recognition of a National Caribbean American Heritage Month, through the Clinton White House. In the meantime, under the auspices of the AdHoc DC Caribbean Council, Washington DC passed a Bill declaring JUNE as Caribbean American Heritage Month in the nation's capital. When the AdHoc Council disbanded, recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month in Washington continued under the leadership of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. ICS formed coalitions with TransAfrica Forum, the Caribbean Association of the World Bank and Fund, and the Caribbean Professional Networking Series to organize events in the metropolitan area.

In 2003, working with the Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee, ICS helped to craft language for a Bill declaring June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month, which was first introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee in 2004. The Bill was re-introduced in 2005 as House Concurrent Resolution 71. Working together, ICS and the Office of Congresswoman Lee crafted a strategy for its passage; launching outreach to Caribbean community leaders across the nation. The Bill has passed the Floor of the House in June 26th and passed the Senate by Unanimous consent on February 14, 2006. The Bill now awaits a Presidential Proclamation.

This national effort is another milestone in the collective journey of the Caribbean American Community to as immigrants. ICS is coordinating with Community leaders across the US, the celebrations marking the FIRST official celebration of JUNE as Caribbean American Heritage Month. For more information on how you can become part of the National Commemorative Committee, contact Claire Nelson, Campaign Chair.