

House Resolution 597

By: Representatives Glanton of the 75th, Smyre of the 135th, Abrams of the 89th, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st, Stovall of the 74th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 25, 2015, 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, 2015, marks the tenth 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
20 in 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
22 Caribbean-American Advancement Foundation, Inc., which is led by Georgian Courtney
23 McFarlane, exists to advocate for the progressive advancement of social, cultural,
24 educational, political, and economic improvements to challenges facing Caribbean-American
25 communities across 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
28 Caribbean-American Advancement Foundation, Inc.; Donna McLeod, Vice President of
29 Community Action Network Initiatives, Inc.; Erika Mitchell, State Director of the Miss Teen
30 Georgia Latina Pageant; Thomas Gandy, Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta; Imani Ray, a
31 singer and performer; Dr. Claire Nelson, President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, Inc.;
32 Roxanne James, President of BeautiControl Mobile Spa and Skincare; Glen Laman,
33 President of Jamaica Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Ivelaw Griffiths, President of Fort
34 Valley State University; Errol Richie, former President of Jamaica Atlanta Association;
35 Joyce Thompson, President of Trinidad and Tobago Association of Georgia; Tony Alleyne,
36 President of Georgia Caribbean-American Heritage Coalition, Inc.; Shelly Maxwell,
37 Executive Director of Red Carpet Shelly Media; and Cherrie Garden; and

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

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

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body recognize March 25, 2015, as Caribbean-American Heritage Day
47 at the state capitol and commend Caribbean-Americans everywhere for their contributions
48 to the State of Georgia.

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