

Senate Resolution 415

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th, Harbison of the 15th and Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the many contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the State of
2 Georgia and recognizing March 19, 2015, as Caribbean American Legislative Day at the
3 state capitol; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans are committed workers, investors, and consumers who
5 contribute to the improvement and economic success of the United States, and their impact
6 extends from farms in Florida to corporate board rooms in New York; and

7 WHEREAS, people of Caribbean American heritage have made significant political and
8 military contributions to the United States for more than 240 years, including Alexander
9 Hamilton, who was born in the Caribbean and was a founding father and Chief Staff Aide
10 to George Washington; Crispus Attucks, the first person to sacrifice his life for the freedom
11 of the United States; Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, a presidential candidate and the first
12 black woman elected to Congress; General Colin Powell, the 65th United States Secretary
13 of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War; and Eric
14 Holder, the Attorney General who served under President Barack Obama; and

15 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans take great pride in sharing their culture through music,
16 and they created musical genres, such as reggae, reggaeton, salsa, and the melodic steel pan
17 music, which have had an influence on mainstream American music; and

18 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans Kerry Washington, Sidney Poitier, Madge Sinclair, Harry
19 Belafonte, Sheryl Lee Ralph, and Al Roker, among others, entertain the world through
20 television, stage, and screen and are examples of outstanding public figures who have
21 significantly impacted millions of individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans such as Claude McKay, Web Dubose, and Jamaica
23 Kincaid have contributed to humanities and literature; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States Representative for California's 13th congressional district,
25 Barbara Lee, created Caribbean Heritage Month in June, 2006, based on the belief that by
26 opening its doors to immigrants, the United States gave foreigners an opportunity to pursue
27 their dreams, utilize their intellectual gifts, and hone their skills in a way that has made a
28 substantial and positive difference to the nation, themselves, and their children.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend Caribbean Americans for the many contributions they have made to the State of
31 Georgia and the United States and recognize March 19, 2015, as Caribbean American
32 Legislative Day at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Caribbean
35 American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, Inc., the Caribbean Association of Georgia,
36 Inc., and the Caribbean Council of Presidents of Georgia.