

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 241

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a “Haitian-American Heritage Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DEUTSCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a “Haitian-American Heritage Month”.

Whereas the histories of the United States and Haiti are inextricably intertwined;

Whereas the United States and Haiti share a common bond of mutual values and a long-standing commitment to democratic principles;

Whereas Haitians and Americans fought side-by-side in the American Revolution at Savannah, Georgia in 1779;

Whereas Major Joseph Savary, a Haitian and the first black major in the United States Army, led the Second Battalion of Freeman of Color which fought under General Andrews;

Whereas Haiti was the second country in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States, to revolt against European colonial rule and win its independence;

Whereas May 18th is Flag Day and is the most celebrated holiday in Haiti and is also celebrated by people of Haitian descent throughout the world;

Whereas the United States was founded and built by immigrants from every country in the world, including Haiti, and the strength of the United States lies in its diversity;

Whereas an estimated 1.2 million people in the United States are of Haitian descent and approximately 700,000 of them live in Florida;

Whereas Haitian-Americans are noted for their achievements in literature, music, business, and the arts;

Whereas Haitian-Americans have deeply enriched American culture and play significant roles in shaping the United States;

Whereas May is a time of celebration, cultural awareness, and traditional observance for Haitian-Americans; and

Whereas May is an appropriate month to establish as “Haitian–American Heritage Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) a “Haitian-American Heritage Month”

4 should be established; and

1 (2) the people of the United States should ob-
2 serve the month with appropriate ceremonies, cele-
3 brations, and activities.

