

WHEREAS, June 6, 2009 was the third anniversary, since President George W. Bush signed the proclamation, designating June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, generations of Caribbean Americans have contributed to the fabric of our nation and have been trail blazers in areas such as government; education; sports; business; science; entertainment; and the arts;

WHEREAS, the history of the Caribbean is inextricably linked to that of the United States-from founding father, Alexander Hamilton, to newspaper pioneer John Russworm, from poet James Weldon Johnson, to Congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm; from performer Celia Cruz to baseball legend, Roberto Clemente; and from former Secretary of State Colin Powell to Attorney General Eric Holder;

WHEREAS, the United States has been a leader in providing assistance to the Caribbean region, and has demonstrated its commitment in areas such as trade, economic development, and humanitarian aid;

WHEREAS, the United States must continue to work with its Caribbean neighbors and non governmental organizations, to strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual relations;

WHEREAS, Florida is considered as the 'Gateway to the Caribbean' and Tallahassee is our capital city; and

WHEREAS, the Caribbean American Heritage Council of Tallahassee will commemorate the contributions of Caribbean Americans to our nation, and honor local citizens such as Jan DeCosmo; David Keen; Hugh Lunan; Zita Magloire; Kara Palmer; Denis Perrott; Gilbert Queeley; Pam Ridley; Denis Ridley; and Verian Thomas for their service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I JOHN MARKS, by the authority vested in me, as Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, officially proclaim June 2009 as

NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In the City of Tallahassee and ask our citizens to participate in activities related to National Caribbean American Heritage Month.