



Indian Diaspora Council

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Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org

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Commemorating 19 Years: IDC Salutes Caribbean American Legacy



The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) joins with its global affiliates and membership in marking the 19th anniversary of Caribbean American Heritage Month in the United States of America, recognizing and celebrating the significant contributions of Caribbean Americans to the United States in all segments of US society for generations, including *social, economic, cultural and political* successes.

The theme for Caribbean American Heritage Month 2025 is "**Celebrating Caribbean Contributions to American History, Life and Culture**". This theme highlights the significant impact of Caribbean Americans on the United States, according to the Institute of Caribbean Studies.

On **June 6, 2006**, **President George W. Bush** issued a historic Proclamation acknowledging the profound impact of Caribbean people and their descendants on the fabric of American society. This declaration marked the inception of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, a time each June when the nation pauses to honor the enduring legacy, vibrant culture, and invaluable contributions of Caribbean immigrants to the United States. Since that inaugural proclamation, the White House has annually reaffirmed this recognition, underscoring a fundamental truth: America's strength and greatness are rooted in its diversity. From the visionary leadership of **Alexander Hamilton**—an immigrant from Nevis and a Founding Father who shaped the nation's financial foundations—to the thought-provoking insights of journalist and author **Malcolm Gladwell**, Caribbean Americans have played a pivotal role in shaping the American narrative and advancing the ideals of the American Dream. This annual commemoration serves not only as a celebration of heritage but also as a reminder that the American story is enriched by the voices, talents, and resilience of those who journey from distant shores to contribute to a shared destiny.

Caribbean immigrants have enriched American society since its founding, leaving an indelible mark across generations. From Vice President **Kamala Harris** and General **Colin Powell** to cultural icons like **Rihanna**, **Beyoncé**, and **Nicki Minaj**, their influence spans politics, arts, sports, and beyond. Visionaries such as **W.E.B. Du Bois**, **Shirley Chisholm**, **Marcus Garvey**, and **Oscar de la Renta** exemplify the depth of Caribbean-American contributions. Public servants and legal minds like **Eric Holder**, **Kwame Raoul**, **Roxanne Persaud**, **Alicia Hyndman**, and **Donovan Richards Jr.** have carried the torch of leadership, while cultural and literary voices such as **Marcus Garvey**, **Gaiutra Bahadur**, **Marina Budhos**, and **Oneeka Williams** have shaped thought and identity. The list also includes fashion icon **Oscar de la Renta**, trailblazing politicians like **Shirley Chisholm** and **Helen Marshall**, and many others—educators, scientists, artists, and community leaders. This list—featuring leaders, creators, and changemakers like **Cicely Tyson**, **Eric Holder**, **Gwen Ifill**, and many more—is just a glimpse into the vibrant legacy of Caribbean heritage shaping the American story.

IDC proudly honors the profound and enduring contributions of individuals of Caribbean heritage to the United States. We extend our heartfelt wishes for their continued success and for the ongoing prosperity of the United States of America – *Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council*

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.