

## 2015-J5296

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing the Barbados' National Heroes Day  
Lecture 2016 "Developing Tomorrow's Heroes Today" on April 28, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay  
just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which  
comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community  
of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its time-ho-  
nored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to recogniz-  
ing the Barbados' National Heroes Day Lecture 2016 "Developing Tomor-  
row's Heroes Today" on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at St. Gabriel's  
Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, New York, in conjunction with the observa-  
tion of the Barbados' 50th Anniversary of Independence; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate this auspicious occasion, Ormond Brathwaite,  
PhD., Associate Dean of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics  
at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio, will serve as the  
distinguished speaker for the evening; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Barbados' independence affirms the  
culture, identity and self-esteem of a people; it honors a rich heritage  
and illuminates Barbadian history and tradition, as well as the spirit  
of an indomitable people; and

WHEREAS, The people of this great State and nation and Barbados enjoy  
a deep and abiding relationship rooted in kinship and culture, and many  
New Yorkers proudly trace their own roots to Barbados; and

WHEREAS, After the first English settlement at Holetown in 1627,  
Barbados remained a British colony until achieving independence from  
Britain on November 30, 1966; and

WHEREAS, The first to arrive in Barbados were British sailors looking  
for water supplies for their voyage from South America to England in the

year of 1625; in 1627 and 1628, British settlers came to the island and took control; the natives were then made slaves of the British who used them to plant sugar cane alongside slaves brought from Africa; and WHEREAS, Several slave rebellions were planned during British rule, but none were successful; the number of African slaves that were brought from African nations increased as time passed, and in the 18th century, most of the population of Barbados was black, a contrast from the English and Scottish-Irish predominance from the previous century; and WHEREAS, In 1834, slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire with Barbados included; however, it was not until the 1930s that the descendants of slaves began fighting for equal rights within Barbados; and

WHEREAS, The problem was exacerbated as British farmers still maintained political control of the island; in 1949, control was wrested away from the British, and Sir Grantley Adams, founder of the Barbados Labour Party, became the first Premier of Barbados in 1958; and WHEREAS, Barbados was then a self-governing colony of the British, and Sir Grantley Adams started negotiations for the country's independence; it was eventually granted on November 30, 1966, and that same year, Barbados became part of the Commonwealth of Nations; a year later, the island was granted a seat at the United Nations and the Organization of American States; and

WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of Barbados' Independence provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of their contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Barbados' history and traditions, and of the role Barbadians have played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the

fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to  
recognize the Barbados' National Heroes Day Lecture 2016 "Developing  
Tomorrow's Heroes Today" on April 28, 2016; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be trans-  
mitted to The Consulate General of Barbados at New York.