

United States House of Representatives



Proclamation

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke

Whereas, Accompong Town, in Cockpit Country, is home to the Trelawny Town Indigenous Maroons. The Maroons are descendants of the enslaved Africans, Moors, and Taino Indians. The Maroons ran away from the Spanish plantation owners when the British took the island of Jamaica from Spain in 1655. They fled to the mountainous areas of Jamaica, where it was difficult for their slave owners to follow and catch them, and formed independent communities as free men and women; and

Whereas, for the past 285 years the Maroons have protected the Cockpit Country which is recognized as one of Jamaica's last remaining areas of undisturbed forest, containing critical watersheds and many species of plants, insects, and animals. Researchers from around the world continue to find new species of medicinal plants, highlighting the importance of protecting this region of biodiversity; and

Whereas, the Cockpit Country is guided by Article 32 of the United Nations Declaration Charter on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Maroon people of Jamaica are unyielding in their commitment to protecting and preserving the Cockpit Country in its natural habitat; and

Whereas, every year the victory of the Trelawny Town Maroons is celebrated on January 6, in commemoration of Cudjoe's birthday. The Cockpit Country is central to Jamaica's cultural heritage, as it is here where the Maroons were able to force the British into signing a Peace Treaty at Peace Cave, in 1738; and

Whereas, the Indigenous Maroons are descendants of Africans from Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, and Central Africa including the Akan, Ashanti, Yoruba, Ibo, and Ibibio people who freed themselves from slavery in the Colony of Jamaica and established communities of free African people in the mountainous interior, in the parishes of St James, Trelawny, St Ann, St Elizabeth, Manchester, and the northern tip of Clarendon; and

Whereas, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I salute the Maroon people of the Sovereign State of Accompong Cockpit Country, for their distinguished and positive contributions, which make our nation great, and I bestow upon them the highest honor as a member of the 118th session of Congress; and

Now, therefore I, Yvette D. Clarke, Member of Congress representing the Ninth Congressional District of New York, do now acknowledge

285th Anniversary of Independence

Under The Leadership of Chief Richard Currie

With great honor and recognition

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States House of Representatives to be affixed this 06th day of January 2023.



Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress