

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 386

Recognizing June 19, 2017, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. LEE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. VARGAS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing June 19, 2017, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2½ years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued

on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19th, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas for more than 150 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That —

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) recognizes the historical significance of
4 Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

5 (B) supports the continued celebration of
6 Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an op-
7 portunity for the people of the United States to
8 learn more about the past and to better under-

1 stand the experiences that have shaped the Na-
2 tion; and

3 (C) encourages the people of the United
4 States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day
5 with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and pro-
6 grams; and

7 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
8 tives that—

9 (A) the celebration of the end of slavery is
10 an important and enriching part of the history
11 and heritage of the United States; and

12 (B) history should be regarded as a means
13 for understanding the past and solving the chal-
14 lenges of the future.

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