

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.131

Reps. Tate, Yancey, Lasinski, Rabhi, Rogers, Aiyash, Brabec, Breen, Brixie, Tyrone Carter, Cavanagh, Cherry, Damoose, Fink, Haadsma, Hammoud, Hood, Hope, Cynthia Johnson, Jones, Meerman, Morse, Peterson, Sabo, Scott, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Thanedar, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth
2 Independence Day in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which
3 the end of slavery was finally announced in every slave-holding
4 state in the United States.

5 Whereas, News of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier
6 areas of the United States, in particular the state of Texas and
7 the other Southwestern states, until months after the conclusion of
8 the Civil War, nearly 2.5 years after President Abraham Lincoln
9 issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

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

4 Whereas, African-Americans who had been slaves in the
5 Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth
6 Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future
7 generations; and

8 Whereas, African-Americans from the Southwest have continued
9 the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150
10 years; and

11 Whereas, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been
12 held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-
13 development and respect for all cultures; and

14 Whereas, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by
15 former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an
16 example for all people of the United States, regardless of
17 background, religion, or race; and

18 Whereas, Slavery was not officially abolished until the
19 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the
20 United States in December 1865; and

21 Whereas, Over the course of its history, the United States has
22 grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth
26 Independence Day in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which
27 the end of slavery was finally announced in every slave-holding
28 state in the United States.