

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.131

Reps. Tate, Yancey, Lasinski, Rabhi and Rogers 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

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

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

5 Whereas, African-Americans from the Southwest have continued
6 the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150
7 years; and

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

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

15 Whereas, Slavery was not officially abolished until the
16 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the
17 United States in December 1865; and

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

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