

1 SJR157
2 132597-2
3 By Senator Sanders
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 01-JUN-11

1 SJR157

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4 ENROLLED, SJR157,

5 RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH DAY.

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7 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration
8 of the ending of slavery in the United States, dating to June
9 19, 1865, when U.S. Army Major General Gordon Granger
10 officially delivered General Order Number 3 in Galveston,
11 Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, even though Major General Granger's
13 announcement came 2 1/2 years after the January 1, 1863,
14 Emancipation Proclamation, the Emancipation Proclamation had
15 made virtually no impact on former slaves in Texas due to the
16 minimal number of Union troops available to enforce the
17 Proclamation until General Lee's surrender in April 1865; and

18 WHEREAS, Major General Granger's June 19, 1865,
19 announcement began the tradition of celebration that soon
20 became known as "Juneteenth," combining the words "June" and
21 "nineteenth," a custom that spread in the late 1800s and
22 became highly revered by former slaves and their descendants;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the Juneteenth celebration made a strong
25 resurgence during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and

1 1960s, and on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official
2 Texas state holiday, and other states adopted the celebration
3 in the ensuing years; and

4 WHEREAS, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Juneteenth
5 has continued to grow in popularity, celebrating
6 African-American freedom while encouraging self-development
7 and respect for all cultures; and

8 WHEREAS, Juneteenth represents a remarkable
9 milestone in our nation's history, the day that all Americans
10 were finally recognized as full citizens and free men; now
11 therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the
14 historical significance and importance of June 19, 1865, and,
15 by copy of this resolution, we extend our best wishes to the
16 participants in the celebration of Juneteenth on June 19,
17 2011.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR157
Senate 01-JUN-11
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 02-JUN-11

By: Senator Sanders