

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

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8 RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH DAY.

9  
10 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration  
11 of the ending of slavery in the United States, dating to June  
12 19, 1865, when U.S. Army Major General Gordon Granger  
13 officially delivered General Order Number 3 in Galveston,  
14 Texas; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, the Juneteenth celebration made a strong  
2 resurgence during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and  
3 1960s, and on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official  
4 Texas state holiday, and other states adopted the celebration  
5 in the ensuing years; and

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

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

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