

By: Leo Wilson

H.C.R. No. 6

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Galveston holds a special place in American history
2 as the birthplace of Juneteenth, the longstanding observance that
3 commemorates the end of slavery in Texas and, more generally, in the
4 United States as a whole; and

5 WHEREAS, Juneteenth stems from the events of June 19, 1865,
6 when the Union Army arrived in Galveston following the end of the
7 Civil War; in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's
8 Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon Granger issued General
9 Order No. 3, which proclaimed that all enslaved persons in Texas
10 were free and that there would be "an absolute equality of personal
11 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves";
12 during the months that followed, this news traveled across the
13 state from Galveston and was joyously received by the approximately
14 250,000 men, women, and children in Texas who had been living in
15 bondage; and

16 WHEREAS, The anniversary of this momentous event came to be
17 known as "Juneteenth," and it has since been marked with a variety
18 of festivities; during the 20th century, Juneteenth began growing
19 in popularity beyond Texas as celebrations spread to cities such as
20 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis, Minnesota; in 1979, Texas
21 became the first state to make Juneteenth an official state
22 holiday, and Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federal
23 holiday, was established in 2021 by an act of Congress; and

24 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is observed in Galveston with an array of

1 special events, including a parade, an art exhibition, and a guided
2 tour to historic sites; in 2021, a public mural entitled *Absolute*
3 *Equality* was completed in downtown Galveston as an initiative of
4 the Juneteenth Legacy Project; spanning 5,000 square feet, the
5 vibrant and richly detailed mural by Reginald C. Adams depicts the
6 origins of Juneteenth and the journey of Black Americans from
7 slavery to freedom; and

8 WHEREAS, Galveston's historical association with Juneteenth
9 has made the city an important destination for those looking to
10 reflect on a landmark moment for our nation and on the ideals of
11 freedom, equality, and justice that the holiday represents, and it
12 is indeed fitting that the city's seminal role in the Juneteenth
13 observance be officially honored; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate Galveston as the official Juneteenth Capital of
16 Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
18 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
19 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
20 passed by the legislature.