

By: Edwards

H.R. No. 1865

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 100 years, Texans have celebrated June
2 19 as Emancipation Day, or "Juneteenth," for it was on that date in
3 1865 that African American slaves in this state finally gained the
4 freedom nominally conferred on them by the Emancipation
5 Proclamation; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognizing the significance this date holds for all
7 Texans, the 66th Texas Legislature approved a bill, authored by
8 Representative Al Edwards, designating June 19 as an official state
9 holiday; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1997, at the instigation of Representative
11 Edwards, the 75th Texas Legislature created the Texas Emancipation
12 Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission, whose objectives
13 were to coordinate state and local activities relating to
14 Juneteenth and to arrange for the erection of a memorial monument;
15 when completed, this monument will be installed on the southwest
16 grounds of the State Capitol; Representative Edwards has also
17 worked to ensure that emancipation and Juneteenth are appropriately
18 handled in school textbooks; and

19 WHEREAS, In coming together to celebrate the end of slavery
20 in the Lone Star State, we honor the countless individuals who
21 endured the rigors of that terrible system and pay tribute to their
22 perseverance and achievements; their labor, as agricultural
23 workers, mechanics, and artisans, played an immeasurable role in
24 the development of this state, and we are all the beneficiaries of

1 their toil; on Juneteenth we honor, moreover, the myriad
2 accomplishments of African Americans since freedom came, and we
3 acknowledge the continuing struggle for social justice, a mighty
4 work deserving the efforts of all Texans of goodwill; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize the June 1, 2003, opening ceremony of
8 Juneteenth 2003 and encourage all Texans to join in Juneteenth
9 celebrations.