

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Harold T. Thomas has proven himself to be a valued
2 supporter of the Juneteenth celebration in Galveston; and

3 WHEREAS, An official state holiday since 1980, Juneteenth
4 celebrates an important milestone in human rights in Texas, the
5 first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston on June
6 19, 1865, by Union general Gordon Granger, which effectively freed
7 the 250,000 slaves in Texas at the end of the Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas enhances his community through his
9 contributions as the publisher of the *Galveston County Observer*
10 *News*, the only African American newspaper serving Galveston County;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This public-spirited citizen has provided
13 outstanding news coverage of the Juneteenth celebrations on
14 Galveston Island for more than 17 years; as part of that effort, he
15 has reported on the Ashton Villa Emancipation Prayer Vigil and
16 Breakfast and the Juneteenth Banquet at the historic Old Central
17 Cultural Center for the past 12 years, and his work in keeping the
18 public informed has contributed to increased participation in the
19 observance; and

20 WHEREAS, Through his dedication, Harold Thomas has helped to
21 heighten awareness of the history of Juneteenth for visitors and
22 residents of Galveston alike; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby commend Harold T. Thomas for his outstanding

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1 contributions in behalf of Juneteenth activities in Galveston and
2 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and
3 happiness; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mr. Thomas as an expression of high regard by the Texas
6 House of Representatives.

Edwards

H.R. No. 2604

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2604 was adopted by the House on May 31, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House