

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation
2 is commemorating in 2015 the sesquicentennial of Juneteenth, the
3 historic date that signifies the end of slavery in Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, It was on June 19, 1865, that General Gordon Granger
5 of the Union Army landed in Galveston and issued an order declaring
6 that, in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation
7 Proclamation, those held in bondage in the State of Texas were now
8 free; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2002, city council member Don Smith established
10 the Missouri City Juneteenth Foundation to engage residents,
11 businesses, and civic leaders in creating an event to honor that
12 watershed date; the annual Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration now
13 offers five days of family-oriented activities, including a parade,
14 historical reenactments, a golf tournament, a "battle of the bands"
15 for high school musicians, a health and wellness fair, and musical
16 performances in a wide variety of genres; while events take place in
17 a number of venues, the focal point remains the Freedom Tree located
18 in Freedom Tree Park; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to organizing the festival, the
20 foundation strives to enhance opportunities for Fort Bend County
21 students; it supports a college scholarship fund, and it develops
22 programs to nurture and showcase the talents of local youths; and

23 WHEREAS, Under the continued leadership of chair Don Smith,
24 the Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation promotes

1 community involvement, increases knowledge of African American
2 history, and fosters goodwill and fellowship among area residents;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor the Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration
6 Foundation for working to commemorate a momentous day in Texas
7 history and extend to all those involved with the organization
8 sincere best wishes for a successful 2015 event; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the foundation as an expression of high regard by the
11 Texas House of Representatives.

Reynolds

H.R. No. 3403

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 3403 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House