

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 3403

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.