

By: Faircloth

H.R. No. 3530

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, When residents of the Lone Star State commemorate
2 Juneteenth on June 19, 2015, they will be celebrating the
3 sesquicentennial of the day that marked the official end of slavery
4 in Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, It was in Galveston, the birthplace of Juneteenth,
6 that the Union commander of the Department of Texas, Major General
7 Gordon Granger, issued General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865; that
8 order advised "the people of Texas . . . that, in accordance with a
9 proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves
10 are free"; and

11 WHEREAS, That watershed moment occurred at the Osterman
12 Building, located on the southwest corner of 22nd Street and Strand
13 in downtown Galveston; the site served as the Union Army
14 Headquarters, and today its crucial role in the story of Texas is
15 commemorated with a historical marker; and

16 WHEREAS, Galveston's annual observance of the abolition of
17 slavery dates back to January 1, 1866, when persons of color were
18 asked to assemble in the town square for a formal celebration of the
19 milestone event; since that time, the annual Juneteenth festivities
20 have continued to be highly anticipated by the city's residents and
21 visitors alike; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, 150 years after emancipation was proclaimed
23 in Texas, Juneteenth continues to inspire gatherings that are both
24 joyful and reflective; layered with meaning, these observances pay

1 tribute to all those who endured the rigors of slavery, honor their
2 immeasurable contributions to the development of this state and
3 nation, and recognize the myriad accomplishments of the generations
4 that have followed; in addition, and of equal importance, the
5 occasion serves as a powerful summons to the continuing work of
6 building a more just and inclusive society; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the
9 abolition of slavery in Texas and encourage all Texans to
10 acknowledge the God-given right of freedom and to join in
11 celebrating this joyous American holiday.