

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 152

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of Lifeway Church in Dallas gathered  
2 together on June 15, 2017, to promote cultural awareness and honor  
3 diversity through the celebration of Juneteenth; and

4           WHEREAS, The oldest known observance commemorating the end of  
5 slavery in the United States, Juneteenth specifically celebrates  
6 the emancipation of African American slaves throughout Texas; and

7           WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger  
8 arrived in Galveston with federal troops to provide military  
9 support for Reconstruction efforts and to enforce President Abraham  
10 Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; that same day, General  
11 Granger read publicly his General Order No. 3, which proclaimed  
12 that all slaves were undeniably free from that date onward and that  
13 there would be "an absolute equality of rights and rights of  
14 property between former masters and slaves"; and

15           WHEREAS, Held on June 19 of each year, the commemoration of  
16 this momentous event became known as "Juneteenth," and celebrations  
17 grew over the decades to include recitations of the Emancipation  
18 Proclamation, readings by notable people, and such festive  
19 activities as singing, parades, rodeos, street fairs, and cookouts;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been observed as an official holiday  
22 in Texas since 1980, when legislation introduced by African  
23 American State Representative Al Edwards during the 1979  
24 legislative session took effect; with the adoption of that bill,

1 this special day became the first emancipation holiday in the  
2 country to be granted official state recognition; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 150 years after emancipation was  
4 proclaimed in Texas, Juneteenth continues to inspire gatherings  
5 that honor the myriad achievements and immeasurable fortitude of  
6 the African American community in the Lone Star State; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 2017  
10 Juneteenth celebration at Lifeway Church and extend to all those  
11 associated with the church sincere best wishes for the future; and,  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Lifeway Church as an expression of high regard by the  
15 Texas House of Representatives.