

By: Collier

H.R. No. 381

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, the observance of
2 Juneteenth on June 19 has provided an opportunity to celebrate the
3 fundamental principles of liberty and equality; and

4 WHEREAS, Although President Lincoln delivered the
5 Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freedom came gradually and at
6 different times to various states, particularly those in the
7 southwest region of the country; it was on June 19, 1865, that
8 General Gordon Granger arrived with his troops at Galveston and
9 issued General Order Number 3, which stated "The people of Texas are
10 informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive
11 of the United States, all slaves are free"; the long-delayed
12 tidings traveled throughout the state to reach approximately
13 250,000 Texans who had been held in bondage; and

14 WHEREAS, Large celebrations on June 19 began the following
15 year, and early on, they typically included a prayer service,
16 inspirational speakers, a reading of the Emancipation
17 Proclamation, and such festive elements as barbecue, games, rodeos,
18 and dances; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1980, Texas became the first state to recognize
20 Juneteenth as an official holiday; today, nearly all 50 states and
21 the District of Columbia observe some form of a Juneteenth
22 Independence Day, and the festivities have spread to other
23 countries as well; and

24 WHEREAS, The observance of Juneteenth provides a welcome

1 opportunity to mark the end of slavery in America while paying
2 homage to the myriad achievements and immeasurable fortitude of the
3 African American community; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
5 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the
6 Congress of the United States to declare Juneteenth a national
7 holiday; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward official copies of
9 this resolution to the president of the United States, to the
10 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
11 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
12 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
13 this resolution be entered into the Congressional Record as a
14 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.