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By:  Turner of Tarrant H.R. No. 1804

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Grand Prairie are gathering together on June 14 and 15, 2019, for the city's Annual Juneteenth Celebration Cookout and Parade; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been observed as an official holiday in Texas since 1980, when legislation introduced by African American State Representative Al Edwards during the 1979 legislative session took effect; with the adoption of that bill, this special day became the first emancipation holiday in the country to be granted official state recognition; and

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 2019 Grand Prairie Juneteenth Celebration and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event.