

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.R. No. 1804

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Grand Prairie are gathering together on
2 June 14 and 15, 2019, for the city's Annual Juneteenth Celebration
3 Cookout and Parade; 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 in 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 86th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2019 Grand Prairie Juneteenth
10 Celebration and extend to all those in attendance sincere best
11 wishes for a meaningful and memorable event.