

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.R. No. 135

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Grand Prairie gather each year to  
2 recognize an important milestone in this nation's history at the  
3 city's annual Juneteenth celebration 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, A much-anticipated event, the Juneteenth  
4 celebration in Grand Prairie offers a fitting opportunity to honor  
5 the myriad achievements and immeasurable fortitude of the African  
6 American community in the Lone Star State and beyond; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
9 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the annual  
10 Grand Prairie Juneteenth celebration and parade and extend to all  
11 those involved in organizing the event sincere appreciation for  
12 their efforts.