

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1332

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation  
2 is hosting its 2021 Juneteenth Celebration from June 14 to 19, 2021;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, In 2002, city council member Don Smith enlisted  
5 residents, local businesses, and civic leaders in the effort to  
6 develop an event highlighting the profound historical importance of  
7 the Emancipation Proclamation; the Missouri City Juneteenth  
8 Celebration Foundation was established with the goals of organizing  
9 culturally relevant activities, creating programs to nurture young  
10 talent, and bringing together families from all backgrounds in a  
11 wholesome and inspiring setting; and

12           WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation was promulgated on  
13 January 1, 1863, but it could not be enforced in Texas until after  
14 the Civil War; on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the  
15 Union Army arrived in Galveston and that same day issued General  
16 Order No. 3, declaring the freedom of all those held in bondage;  
17 emancipated men and women marked the first anniversary of this date  
18 in 1866, and over the years, Juneteenth became a proud celebration  
19 of a momentous milestone in this nation's history; and

20           WHEREAS, African Americans who moved away from Texas took the  
21 Juneteenth tradition with them, and it was embraced nationally; in  
22 1979, Texas became the first state to make the celebration an  
23 official holiday; today, Missouri City's Juneteenth program has  
24 grown to encompass a wide variety of activities, including a

1 kick-off reception, a parade, a community service awards gala, and  
2 a golf tournament as well as musical performances; the Freedom  
3 Tree, located in Freedom Tree Park, serves as a focal point and  
4 symbol of African American resilience; and

5 WHEREAS, The much-anticipated Juneteenth celebration in  
6 Missouri City provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on African  
7 Americans' long road to freedom and to recognize their immeasurable  
8 contributions to the building of this country over the centuries;  
9 now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 2021 Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration  
11 be commemorated and that all those participating be extended  
12 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful event.