

By: Neave

H.R. No. 2091

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Mesquite are gathering together on  
2 June 19, 2021, for the city's second annual Juneteenth Celebration;  
3 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 encompass recitations of the Emancipation  
18 Proclamation, readings by notable people, and such festive  
19 activities as singing, parades, rodeos, street fairs, and cookouts;  
20 the celebration in Mesquite, which is hosted by Mesquite Tri-East  
21 NAACP and sponsored by the City of Mesquite and Kroger, will include  
22 area business vendors, food and drink, and games; in addition, the  
23 event will feature music by DJ Mark B; and

24           WHEREAS, More than 150 years after emancipation was

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1 proclaimed in Texas, Juneteenth continues to inspire gatherings  
2 that honor the myriad achievements and immeasurable fortitude of  
3 the African American community in the Lone Star State; now,  
4 therefore, be it

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
6 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2021 Mesquite Juneteenth  
7 Celebration and extend to all those in attendance sincere best  
8 wishes for a meaningful and memorable occasion.