

By: Leo Wilson

H.R. No. 1369

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Galveston are gathering on June 18,
2 2025, to mark the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth; and

3 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the City of Galveston and the
4 Juneteenth 160th Commemorative Celebration Committee, the event
5 pays tribute to this special anniversary milestone in the city
6 where Juneteenth began; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, two years after President Abraham
8 Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon
9 Granger arrived with his troops at Galveston to issue General Order
10 No. 3, which stated that "The people of Texas are informed
11 that . . . all slaves are free"; the long-delayed news traveled
12 throughout the state and was received with jubilation by the
13 approximately 250,000 Texans who had been released from bondage;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The annual emancipation celebrations on June 19
16 became known as Juneteenth, and the event grew in popularity and
17 later spread to other parts of the country; in 1979, Texas became
18 the first state to make Juneteenth an official state holiday, and a
19 federal holiday, Juneteenth National Independence Day, was
20 established in 2021; through the years, Galveston has remained an
21 important center for the observance due to the city's historical
22 role in the events of 1865 and the vibrant festivities that mark the
23 occasion; and

24 WHEREAS, In this 160th anniversary year, the Texas

1 Legislature passed two important bills related to Juneteenth; House
2 Concurrent Resolution 6 designates Galveston as the official
3 Juneteenth Capital of Texas, while House Bill 554 amends state law
4 to permit retail sale of fireworks on and immediately before the
5 holiday; and

6 WHEREAS, For 160 years, Juneteenth has provided a joyous
7 opportunity to reaffirm allegiance to the fundamental principles of
8 freedom and equality, and in 2025, the residents of Galveston have
9 the honor of marking this occasion in the official Juneteenth
10 Capital of Texas; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 160th anniversary of the first
13 Juneteenth celebration and extend sincere best wishes to the people
14 of Galveston as they observe the holiday.