

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4647, by Representative Lovick

1 WHEREAS, The three most significant documents in United States
2 history that exemplify America's passion for freedom are the
3 Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Each has maintained its rightful place in the annals of
6 American history, only the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have
7 identifiable dates emphasizing their importance to the American
8 People through celebration of the Fourth of July, Constitution Day,
9 and Flag Day; and

10 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln ended slavery in the United
11 States with the Emancipation Proclamation, which became official
12 January 1, 1863; and

13 WHEREAS, Slavery remained in the state of Texas for more than two
14 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President
15 Abraham Lincoln; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the
17 Union Army led his troops into the city of Galveston, Texas and
18 officially proclaimed freedom for slaves in that state; and

19 WHEREAS, General Granger's order reads in part: "The people of
20 Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the
21 Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an
22 absolute equality of rights and rights of property between masters

1 and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them
2 becomes that between employer and free laborer"; and

3 WHEREAS, The celebration of "Juneteenth" - June 19th - is the
4 oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery because it marks
5 the day that slaves in the state of Texas were informed of the
6 Emancipation Proclamation; and

7 WHEREAS, As African-Americans from Texas and other parts of the
8 South began to migrate to other parts of the United States, they took
9 with them the tradition of Juneteenth, spreading the word that
10 African-American Freedom has roots in the celebration of Juneteenth;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom
13 emphasizing education and achievement, through reflection, rejoicing,
14 and planning for the future;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
16 celebrate the end of slavery on June 19th.

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