2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

CONGRESS: Memorializes congress to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to
3	recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United
4	States and observe Juneteenth nationally as a holiday.
5	WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United
6	States, and in particular the southwestern states, for more than two and a half years after
7	President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and
8	months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and
9	WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an annual observance and celebration of the date Union
10	soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining slaves in Galveston,
11	Texas, on June 19, 1865; and
12	WHEREAS, since 1865, the day has been celebrated as the day African-Americans
13	received the news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and
14	WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and resolve of
15	African-Americans throughout our history, and is an opportunity to highlight the value of
16	African-American culture, art, history, and achievement; and
17	WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part
18	of the history and heritage of the United States; and
19	WHEREAS, for more than one hundred fifty years, Juneteenth Independence Day
20	celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging
21	self-development and respect for all cultures; and

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1	WHEREAS, forty-six states and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth
2	Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all
3	slaves in the United States; and
4	WHEREAS, in 1997, the 105th United States Congress officially recognized
5	Juneteenth as the observance of Independence Day of Americans of African descent; and
6	WHEREAS, Juneteenth reflects our belief in liberty and equality for every citizen,
7	as everyone can benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of
8	others.
9	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10	memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to recognize
11	the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States and observe
12	Juneteenth nationally as a holiday.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14	presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
15	United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 66 Original

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Memorializes the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States and observe Juneteenth nationally as a holiday.