

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH AND SENATORS BISHOP, COLOMB, MORRELL,
AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize 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.

WHEREAS, news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the southwestern states, for more than two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an annual observance and celebration of the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining slaves in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, since 1865, the day has been celebrated as the day African-Americans received the news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and resolve of African-Americans throughout our history, and is an opportunity to highlight the value of African-American culture, art, history, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States; and

WHEREAS, for more than one hundred fifty years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, forty-six states and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the 105th United States Congress officially recognized Juneteenth as the observance of Independence Day of Americans of African descent; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth reflects our belief in liberty and equality for every citizen, as everyone can benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE