

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATORS BARROW, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PETERSON, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To recognize and commemorate the historical significance of June 19, 1865, as a day of celebration and the need to get along and work together.

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery; and

WHEREAS, two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, there was little effect on southern states due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new executive order; and

WHEREAS, it was on June 19, 1865, that Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of June 19, 1865, was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants of slaves; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, today, Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging education, achievement, and respect for all cultures in our nation; and

WHEREAS, with recent events involving African Americans and others in our society, it is important, now more than ever, that there be understanding by everyone, and the need for all members of the community to work together and support one another.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commemorate Juneteenth as a day of celebration for all African Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on the occasion of this celebration, all persons recognize the need to respect one another and work together.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE