

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1866

A RESOLUTION in support and observance of an annual Juneteenth Day.

WHEREAS, June 19th is known in many places as Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that all slaves were now free. This was two and a half-years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which had become official January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive order; and

WHEREAS, Attempts to explain this two and a half-year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Whatever the reasons, slavery remained until that fateful day in June; and

WHEREAS, General Order Number 3 stated, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer"; and

WHEREAS, The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many former slaves lingered to enter into an employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former masters; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of June 19 was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants of the liberated slaves. It was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas. Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development, diversity and respect for all cultures: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we support a national Juneteenth holiday and encourage participation by all citizens in observance of Juneteenth as America's other "Independence Day"; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide six enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Derek Schmidt.

Senate Resolution No. 1866 was sponsored by Senators Betts, Haley, Hensley and D. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*