



A Resolution in Support of Designating Juneteenth a Federal Holiday

WHEREAS, JUNETEENTH celebrates the day that Union General Gordon Granger publicly read *General Order Number 3* which proclaimed, in part, that “*The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free*” in one of the farthest outposts of the former Confederate States: Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865.

WHEREAS, For generations, Americans who are descended from these freed slaves have commemorated JUNETEENTH with celebrations.

WHEREAS, Texas was the first state in the United States to officially recognize JUNETEENTH as a state holiday in 1980.

WHEREAS, The significance of this holiday extends well beyond our region and our state.

WHEREAS, Today 47 states and the District of Columbia recognize JUNETEENTH as an official state holiday or day of observance.

WHEREAS, Former Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison proposed that JUNETEENTH be recognized as a national day of observance in 2012.

WHEREAS, All Americans should have the opportunity to celebrate liberty and to solemnly reflect on the role of slavery in our nation’s history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Executive Committee of the HOUSTON YOUNG REPUBLICANS join the chorus of Americans who are calling on Congress to designate JUNETEENTH as a federal holiday - replacing another federal holiday if necessary. JUNETEENTH is a day of national impact that should be celebrated by all Americans.