

## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

Commemorating “Juneteenth Independence Day”, June 19, 1865, the day on which slavery finally came to an end in the United States.

Whereas news of the end of slavery came late to frontier areas of the country, especially in the American Southwest;

Whereas the African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated June 19 as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas their descendants handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations have thus been held for 130 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas their example of faith and strength of character remains a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background or region or race: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That the annual observance of June 19 as Juneteenth

1 Independence Day is an important and enriching part of  
2 our country's history and heritage.

3       SEC. 2. That the celebration of Juneteenth provides  
4 an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our  
5 common past and to better understand the experiences  
6 that have shaped our Nation.

7       SEC. 3. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted  
8 to the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage as an  
9 expression of appreciation for its role in promoting the ob-  
10 servance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

Passed the Senate April 10, 1997.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**S. J. RES. 11**

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