

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 51

Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2001

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the Nation, especially in the southwestern United States, until long after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas the African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated June 19, known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas those African Americans handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have thus been held for 136 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character shown by those former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, region, or race: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) Congress recognizes the historical signifi-
4 cance of Juneteenth Independence Day, an impor-
5 tant date in the Nation’s history, and encourages
6 the continued celebration of that day to provide an
7 opportunity for all people of the United States to
8 learn more about the past and to better understand
9 the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

10 (2) it is the sense of Congress that—

11 (A) history should be regarded as a means
12 for understanding the past and solving the chal-
13 lenges of the future;

14 (B) the celebration of the end of slavery is
15 an important and enriching part of the history
16 and heritage of the United States; and

1 (C) the Secretary of the Senate should
2 transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to
3 the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage
4 as an expression of appreciation for the associa-
5 tion's role in promoting the observance of the
6 end of slavery.

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