

Reps. Murphy, Accavitti, Adamini, Anderson, Baxter, Bennett, Bieda, Brown, Byrnes, Byrum, Clack, Clemente, Condino, Cushingberry, Donigan, Drolet, Espinoza, Farhat, Farrah, Gillard, Gleason, Gonzales, Green, Hansen, Hopgood, Huizenga, Jones, Kahn, Kolb, Kathleen Law, Leland, Lemmons, Jr., Meisner, Meyer, Miller, Nofs, Palmer, Palsrok, Pearce, Plakas, Polidori, Proos, Sak, Alma Smith, Virgil Smith, Spade, Stakoe, Tobocman, Vagnozzi, Waters and Zelenko offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 275.

A resolution commemorating the 13th Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Festival in honor of Juneteenth Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, It is a great pleasure and distinct privilege to join in commemorating the 13th anniversary of Juneteenth Day in Michigan; and

Whereas, This day will be commemorated at the State Capitol Building in Lansing, Michigan on Thursday, June 15, 2006. The theme this year is “*Beyond Emancipation Continuing Towards Empowerment*”; and

Whereas, The Juneteenth Celebration in Lansing was created in 1993 by a few caring citizens who wanted to recognize this special day in history. It can trace its roots to the pioneering spirit of courageous men and women who first cleared the land and built the institutions and homes that make this nation a home for individuals and families seeking a secure and prosperous tomorrow; and

Whereas, Juneteenth had its beginning on June 19, 1865, with the aspirations of its founders. On that day, Union General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, to present and read General Order No. 3. That day the nation of “liberty for all” became a reality as the *Emancipation Proclamation*, a proclamation to end slavery, went into effect across the entire United States; and

Whereas, By observing an anniversary like Juneteenth Day, we all learn a little more about our history. For the children of Michigan, there are even greater rewards as they discover that they are part of the traditions of citizenship that will be with them their entire lives. With the wonderful gifts they share, the citizens of Michigan certainly have good reason for thanks and for optimism; and

Whereas; With ceremonies to celebrate history, the members and officers responsible for the 13th Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Festival will remember the vision of many people and the hours and years of commitment that have brought the group to this point. Fittingly, as we look to the past, we will also be looking to the future and to the many ways in which Juneteenth Day will continue to reach out in our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the 13th Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Festival in honor of Juneteenth Day. We express our appreciation for its valuable role in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Juneteenth Day Committee and the Mask Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church as evidence of our esteem.