

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.131

Reps. Neeley, Cherry, Chirkun, Clemente, Ellison, Garza, Greig, Haadsma, Hammoud, Hoadley, Hood, Hope, Jones, Kuppa, Liberati, Love, Manoogian, Pagan, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Wittenberg and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth
2 Independence Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, News of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier
4 areas of the United States, in particular the state of Texas and
5 the other southwestern states, until months after the conclusion of
6 the Civil War. This was more than 2½ years after President Abraham
7 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;
8 and

9 Whereas, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major
10 General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that



1 the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

2 Whereas, African-Americans who had been slaves in the
3 Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth
4 Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future
5 generations; and

6 Whereas, African-Americans from the Southwest have continued
7 the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150
8 years; and

9 Whereas, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been
10 held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-
11 development and respect for all cultures; and

12 Whereas, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by
13 former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an
14 example for all people of the United States, regardless of
15 background, religion, or race; and

16 Whereas, Slavery was not officially abolished until the
17 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United
18 States in December 1865; and

19 Whereas, Over the course of its history, the United States has
20 grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
23 this legislative body declare June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth
24 Independence Day in the state of Michigan.