

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

Senator Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth.

2 Whereas, The transatlantic slave trade system established both
3 Europe and North America as world powers by and through the
4 commoditization of Africans. Millions of Africans suffered disease
5 and death on the eight week voyages across the Middle Passage; and

6 Whereas, From 1619 through 1865, millions of Africans and
7 their descendants were enslaved in the United States, the thirteen
8 American colonies, and eventually the United States of America; and

9 Whereas, Maritime, agricultural, insurance, defense, tobacco,
10 sugar, and cotton industries were established off profits from the
11 atrocities of slavery; and

12 Whereas, Slavery highlights the fundamental hypocrisy and

1 moral contradiction of European whites in America who declared
2 independent rights from Great Britain, while holding in bondage
3 more than 100,000 Africans; and

4 Whereas, Michigan served as the major hub of the Underground
5 Railroad and home to several white abolitionists, including U.S.
6 Representative and U.S. Senator Jacob Merritt Howard, Guy Beckley
7 of Ann Arbor, Erastus Hussey of Battle Creek, and Seymour Finney of
8 Detroit; and

9 Whereas, Through the work of these great men of all colors,
10 the Second Baptist Church of Detroit, Friends of the Fugitives,
11 Anti-Slavery Society, and other institutions, thousands of slaves
12 were freed; and

13 Whereas, On this day in 1865, Texas was the last state to
14 recognize that enslaved persons were free, two and a half years
15 after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President
16 Lincoln. For this reason, it is celebrated as Juneteenth; and

17 Whereas, Slavery was abolished through the passage of the 13th
18 Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865, after the end
19 of the Civil War; and

20 Whereas, After the emancipation from 246 years of slavery,
21 Africans in America continue to experience the vestiges of slavery
22 from challenges with voting rights, inadequate public education
23 systems, lack of access to capital lending institutions, and other
24 social and economic injustices; now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
26 body commemorate June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth; and be it further

27 Resolved, That we recognize the devastating legacy of American
28 slavery, and encourage all citizens of Michigan to educate each
29 other and future generations on the history of slavery to ensure

1 that this tragedy will never be forgotten or repeated.