

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 480

Recognizing June 19, 2021, as this year’s observance of the historical
significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAMB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TITUS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PALLONE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. BASS, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VELA, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. JONES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BACON, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KELLY of

Illinois, and Ms. JAYAPAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing June 19, 2021, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2½ years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

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

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, for more than 150 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the

United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) recognizes the historical significance of
4 Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

5 (B) supports the continued celebration of
6 Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an op-
7 portunity for the people of the United States to
8 learn more about the past and to better under-
9 stand the experiences that have shaped the Na-
10 tion; and

11 (C) encourages the people of the United
12 States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day
13 with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and pro-
14 grams; and

15 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
16 tives that—

17 (A) the celebration of the end of slavery is
18 an important and enriching part of the history
19 and heritage of the United States; and

20 (B) history should be regarded as a means
21 for understanding the past and solving the chal-
22 lenges of the future.

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