

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 56

JOINT RESOLUTION

Celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

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Whereas news of the end of slavery came late to frontier areas of the country, especially in the American Southwest;

Whereas the African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated Juneteenth as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas their descendants handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations have thus been held for 130 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas their example of faith and strength of character remains a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background or region or race: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That—

4 (1) the celebration of the end of slavery is an
 5 important and enriching part of our country's his-
 6 tory and heritage;

7 (2) the celebration of the end of slavery pro-
 8 vides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more
 9 about our common past and to better understand
 10 the experiences that have shaped our Nation; and

11 (3) a copy of this joint resolution be transmit-
 12 ted to the National Association of Juneteenth Lin-

1 eage as an expression of appreciation for its role in
2 promoting the observance of the end of slavery.

Passed the House of Representatives June 17, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.