

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WASHINGTON JUNETEENTH  
2 2003 A NATIONAL HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE AND NATIONAL JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY  
3 CAMPAIGN.

4 WHEREAS, more than 130 years old, Juneteenth National Freedom  
5 Day is the oldest and only African-American holiday observance in  
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the  
8 strong survival, due to God given strength and determination, of  
9 African Americans who were first brought to this country stacked  
10 in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the  
11 Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

12 WHEREAS, approximately eleven and one-half million African  
13 Americans survived the voyage to the New World, the number that  
14 died is likely greater, only to be subjected to whipping,  
15 castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced  
16 to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the  
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was  
19 proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on  
20 June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years  
21 after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President  
22 Abraham Lincoln; and

23 WHEREAS, for the first time in over 130 years of the annual  
24 celebration, Juneteenth has finally been officially recognized as  
25 Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and  
26 Congress of the United States; and



27 WHEREAS, this reality is particularly underscored by the fact  
28 that it was in the 1st Session of the 105th Congress via  
29 bipartisan cooperation of the former Congresswoman Barbara  
30 Rose-Collins (D-Michigan), former Senator Carol Mosley-Braun  
31 (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma), former House  
32 Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader Trent  
33 Lott (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle  
34 (D-South Dakota), that Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint  
35 Resolution 56 were successfully shepherded through both Houses of  
36 Congress, in a successful effort to officially recognize  
37 Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of  
38 African descent in 1997; and

39 WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions  
40 and countries of origin, share in a common love of and respect for  
41 freedom, as well as a determination to protect their right to  
42 freedom through democratic institutions, by which the  
43 "tenets-of-freedom" are guaranteed and protected; and

44 WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the 4th of  
45 July, completes the cycle of freedom for America's Independence  
46 Day observances; and

47 WHEREAS, "Until all are Free, None are Free," is an oft  
48 repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of  
49 the end of the era of slavery in the United States; and

50 WHEREAS, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is  
51 sponsoring the premier celebration and worship services to  
52 commemorate America's 2nd Independence Day Observance, the 19th of  
53 June, as one which completes the cycle of America's 18th century  
54 Independence Movement, initiated with the 4th of July, 1776  
55 Declaration of Independence; and

56 WHEREAS, to recognize this country's movement towards a one  
57 America, advanced by a sincere dialogue of the realization of what  
58 Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial  
59 healing, restoration and justice:



60           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
61 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
62 THEREIN, That we do hereby support the Washington Juneteenth 2003  
63 National Holiday Observance and National Juneteenth Holiday  
64 Campaign.

