

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Horhn, Barnett,
Blount, Caughman

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL
2 SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNE 19, 2020, AS "JUNETEENTH."

3 WHEREAS, June 19th, the oldest known celebration of the
4 ending of slavery, is known in many places as "Juneteenth"; and

5 WHEREAS, from 1619 through 1865, millions of Africans and
6 their descendants were enslaved in the United States, the 13
7 American colonies, and eventually the United States of America;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the
10 celebrated Emancipation Proclamation, warning the rebellious
11 Confederate States that he would declare their slaves "forever
12 free" if those states did not return to the Union by January 1,
13 1863. Enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation occurred only
14 in Confederate States that were under Union Army control; and

15 WHEREAS, prior to the end of the Civil War, on January 31,
16 1865, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the United
17 States Constitution, which abolished slavery throughout the United
18 States and its territories. Spontaneous celebrations erupted



19 throughout the country when African Americans learned of their
20 freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Texas was the last state to
22 recognize that enslaved persons were free, two and one-half years
23 after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President
24 Lincoln. For this reason, it is celebrated as Juneteenth; and

25 WHEREAS, many African Americans continue the tradition of
26 celebrating Juneteenth as inspiration and encouragement for future
27 generations, and for more than 140 years, Juneteenth Day
28 celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom
29 while encouraging self development and respect for all cultures:

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
31 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commemorate and recognize the
32 historical significance of June 19, 2020, as "Juneteenth."

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be made
34 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

