

89R182 BK-D

By: Leo Wilson

H.C.R. No. 6

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Galveston holds a special place in American history as the birthplace of Juneteenth, the longstanding observance that commemorates the end of slavery in Texas and, more generally, in the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth stems from the events of June 19, 1865, when the Union Army arrived in Galveston following the end of the Civil War; in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, which proclaimed that all enslaved persons in Texas were free and that there would be "an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves"; during the months that followed, this news traveled across the state from Galveston and was joyously received by the approximately 250,000 men, women, and children in Texas who had been living in bondage; and

WHEREAS, The anniversary of this momentous event came to be known as "Juneteenth," and it has since been marked with a variety of festivities; during the 20th century, Juneteenth began growing in popularity beyond Texas as celebrations spread to cities such as

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis, Minnesota; in 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official state holiday, and Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federal holiday, was established in 2021 by an act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is observed in Galveston with an array of special events, including a parade, an art exhibition, and a guided tour to historic sites; in 2021, a public mural entitled *Absolute Equality* was completed in downtown Galveston as an initiative of the Juneteenth Legacy Project; spanning 5,000 square feet, the vibrant and richly detailed mural by Reginald C. Adams depicts the origins of Juneteenth and the journey of Black Americans from slavery to freedom; and

WHEREAS, Galveston's historical association with Juneteenth has made the city an important destination for those looking to reflect on a landmark moment for our nation and on the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice that the holiday represents, and it is indeed fitting that the city's seminal role in the Juneteenth observance be officially honored; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate Galveston as the official Juneteenth Capital of Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect

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until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
passed by the legislature.