

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 04-1027

BY REPRESENTATIVES Cloer, Carroll, Berry, Boyd, Briggs, Brophy, Butcher, Cerbo, Coleman, Crane, Decker, Fairbank, Frangas, Garcia, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, King, Larson, Marshall, McCluskey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Miller, Mitchell, Paccione, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Romanoff, Rose, Salazar, Smith, Spence, Spradley, Tochtrop, Vigil, Weissmann, Williams S., Williams T., Borodkin and Weddig; also SENATORS Groff, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, May R., McElhany, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Sandoval, Takis, Tapia, Teck, Tupa, Veiga and Windels.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE THIRD SATURDAY IN JUNE AS “JUNETEENTH”

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, as the nation reached its 3rd year of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that all slaves were free; and

WHEREAS, This was the first time that the slaves in eastern Texas learned of their freedom, and the newly-freed slaves’ reactions to this news ranged from shock to jubilation; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of June 19th was coined ‘Juneteenth’, and the yearly festivities grew with more participation from descendants of the former slaves; and

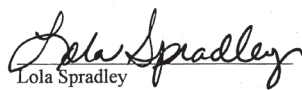
WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest know celebration of the ending of slavery and is a celebration of freedom and justice for all Americans, with a special emphasis on education and tolerance; and

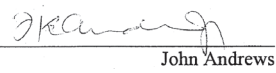
WHEREAS, African Americans in Texas and elsewhere throughout the years have continued to mark Juneteenth with appropriate activities in order to realize the significance that day played in their history; and

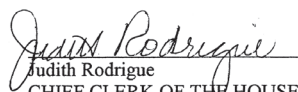
WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an ongoing celebration that encourages cultural awareness and educates all citizens about this freedom day for African Americans; and

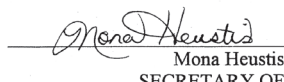
WHEREAS, Knowledge and history of heritage enhances citizen’s self esteem; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor Bill Owens; the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.; the Colorado Caucus of Black Elected Officials; the Colorado NAACP; Mayor John Hickenlooper and the city Council of Denver; the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in Washington, D.C.; the chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation Ronald V. Meyers, Sr. M.D.; and Mr. James Tucker of Colorado Springs, publisher of *The African-American Voice*.


Lola Spradley
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES


John Andrews
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE


Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES


Mona Heustis
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

