

HM 765

2020

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to recognize June 19, 2020, as  
4 "Juneteenth Independence Day."  
5

6 WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln  
7 issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery, and

8 WHEREAS, despite the issuance of the Emancipation  
9 Proclamation, news of the end of slavery did not travel to  
10 certain regions of the United States for more than 2 years  
11 afterwards, and

12 WHEREAS, on or about June 19, 1865, federal authorities had  
13 arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform slaves that the Civil War  
14 had ended and that the enslaved were now free, and

15 WHEREAS, following emancipation, former slaves and their  
16 descendants continued to commemorate each June 19 in recognizing  
17 the emancipation of all slaves in the United States and  
18 celebrating freedom, and

19 WHEREAS, in 1991, Florida officially designated June 19 of  
20 each year as "Juneteenth Day" to commemorate the freeing of  
21 slaves within the state, and

22 WHEREAS, Congress has previously demonstrated strong  
23 bipartisan support in recognizing "Juneteenth Independence Day,"  
24 evidenced by the introduction of Senate Resolution 253, House  
25 Resolution 448, and House Resolution 450 in June 2019, NOW,

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26 | THEREFORE,

27 |

28 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29 |

30 |       That the Congress of the United States is urged to  
31 | recognize June 19, 2020, as "Juneteenth Independence Day."

32 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
33 | copies of this memorial to the Majority Leader of the United  
34 | States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
35 | each member of the Florida delegation to the United States  
36 | Congress.