

By Senator Pizzo

38-01064-20

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Senate Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.