

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19,
2024.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH
ON JUNE 19, 2024.

WHEREAS, for one hundred fifty-seven (157) years, Juneteenth National Freedom Day, also known as Emancipation Day, Emancipation Celebration, Freedom Day, Juneteenth Independence Day and Juneteenth, has been one of the most important African-American holiday observances in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day that news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln was brought to slaves in Galveston, Texas, by Union General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations commemorate both the survival of the millions of African people who were captured into slavery and brought to this country and their descendants who were enslaved in chattel slavery for over two hundred (200) years before the practice was abolished; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of chattel slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been slaves and their descendants have celebrated June 19 as a day of inspiration and encouragement for future



generations; and

WHEREAS, over one hundred thirty years (130) after the Emancipation Proclamation and after years of informal annual celebration, Juneteenth National Independence Day was declared a federal holiday in 2021 by the United States Congress and the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth in order to advance racial equality, human dignity, and justice,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate:

(1) Recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth National Independence Day to the United States; and

(2) Recognize the observance of Juneteenth on June 19, 2024.