

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.279

Reps. Yancey, Cynthia Johnson, Tyrone Carter, Pohutsky, Ellison, Cynthia Neeley, Witwer, Liberati, Peterson, Cherry, Sneller, Anthony, Tate, Hammoud, Camilleri, Guerra, Manoogian, Gay-Dagnogo, Clemente, Koleszar, Bolden, Kuppa, Hood, Rabhi, Brenda Carter, Hoadley, Wittenberg, Stone, Sabo, Lasinski, Warren, Jones, Brixie, Sowerby, Chirkun, Hertel, Elder, Garrett, Schroeder, Yaroach, Haadsma, Love, VanSingel, Hope, Cambensy, Coleman, Byrd and Garza offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare June 19, 2020, as Juneteenth
2 Independence Day in the state of Michigan in recognition of June
3 19, 1865, the date on which the end of slavery was finally
4 announced in every slave-holding state in the United States.

5 Whereas, News of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier
6 areas of the United States, in particular the state of Texas and



1 the other Southwestern states, until months after the conclusion of
2 the Civil War. This was nearly 2 1/2 years after President Abraham
3 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;
4 and

5 Whereas, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major
6 General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that
7 the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free; and

8 Whereas, African-Americans who had been slaves in the
9 Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth
10 Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future
11 generations; and

12 Whereas, African-Americans from the Southwest have continued
13 the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150
14 years; and

15 Whereas, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been
16 held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-
17 development and respect for all cultures; and

18 Whereas, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by
19 former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an
20 example for all people of the United States, regardless of
21 background, religion, or race; and

22 Whereas, Slavery was not officially abolished until the
23 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the
24 United States in December 1865; and

25 Whereas, Over the course of its history, the United States has
26 grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: now,
27 therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
29 this legislative body declare June 19, 2020, as Juneteenth

1 Independence Day in the state of Michigan in recognition of June
2 19, 1865, the date on which the end of slavery was finally
3 announced in every slave-holding state in the United States.