

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Joint Resolution 31**

Sponsored by Senator GORDLY; Representative NELSON

Whereas the Independence Day movement initiated by the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, did not include the enslaved descendants of Africans, nor were they recognized as full human beings under the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas President Abraham Lincoln signed an executive order known as the Emancipation Proclamation that granted freedom to slaves in the states of the Confederacy on January 1, 1863; and

Whereas slave owners in the Confederate states continued to enslave people in defiance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

Whereas, after the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, the Union army was dispatched to the Confederate states to restore order and to ensure that the Emancipation Proclamation was enforced; and

Whereas, when Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order Number 3 in the Gulf Coast town of Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, containing those most important words, "all slaves are free," impromptu celebrations erupted across the state as the long-delayed news spread; and

Whereas June 19 is the oldest and most widely known celebration of African-American emancipation and a time for revival meetings, family reunions and celebrations of freedom, including pilgrimages by slaves and descendants of slaves to Galveston; and

Whereas June 19 is the freedom forerunner to the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted freedom to all slaves born in the United States, and the date is pivotal in our nation's Independence Day movement; and

Whereas in 1997 the 105th United States Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 officially recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day; and

Whereas a formal apology for slavery, House Concurrent Resolution 356, was sponsored in the United States Congress by Representative Tony Hall of Ohio at the first annual Washington Juneteenth 2000 National Holiday Observance; and

Whereas Idaho, Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Delaware and Alaska have already recognized the end of slavery in the United States through a Juneteenth state holiday, and thousands of petitions have been sent to the White House urging President Bush to declare June 19 a national holiday; and

Whereas if a Presidential Proclamation were issued, Juneteenth would be recognized as a national holiday and a very significant step would be taken to bring healing in the United States from the devastation caused by slavery; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-first Legislative Assembly, do hereby declare Juneteenth, June 19 of each year, to be a day for celebration statewide of the dignity and freedom of all citizens.

Adopted by Senate June 4, 2001

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Secretary of Senate

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President of Senate

Adopted by House June 19, 2001

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Speaker of House