

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

HR 1005

4  
5 By: Representative Blair

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 ACKNOWLEDGING JUNETEENTH AS ONE OF THE OLDEST  
10 AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS DURING THIS BLACK  
11 HISTORY MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2003 AND ASKS THAT ALL  
12 ARKANSANS RECOGNIZE AND NOTE THIS IMPORTANT DAY  
13 WITH KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF AFRICAN  
14 AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.

15  
16 **Subtitle**

17 ACKNOWLEDGING JUNETEENTH AS ONE OF THE  
18 OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS  
19 DURING THIS BLACK HISTORY MONTH OF  
20 FEBRUARY 2003 AND NOTING THIS IMPORTANT  
21 DAY WITH APPRECIATION OF AFRICAN  
22 AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.

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24  
25 WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of  
26 slavery that dates back to June 19, 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger  
27 led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas where he issued his General Order  
28 Number 3 to inform the people of Texas that the Emancipation Proclamation  
29 freed all slaves on January 1, 1863; and

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31 WHEREAS, the reactions to this profound news of freedom ranged from  
32 pure shock to immediate jubilation and the celebration of June 19th was  
33 coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants with  
34 many former slaves and with descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to  
35 Galveston on that date; and



1 WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations became one of the earliest of the  
2 African Americans commemorations where certain foods became popular and  
3 subsequently synonymous with Juneteenth and more traditional and just as  
4 popular was the barbecuing, through which participants could share in the  
5 spirit and aromas that their ancestors experienced, and meats like lamb, pork  
6 and beef which were not available everyday were brought on this special  
7 occasion, and dress was also an important element in early Juneteenth customs  
8 and is often still taken seriously, particularly by the direct descendants  
9 who can make the connection to this tradition's roots; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday on January  
12 1, 1980, marking Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted  
13 official state recognition and throughout the 80's and 90's Juneteenth has  
14 continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and  
15 organizations throughout the country to promote and cultivate knowledge and  
16 appreciation of African American history and culture; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while  
19 encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures, and as it takes on  
20 a more national and global perspective, the events of 1865 are not forgotten,  
21 for all of the roots tie back to this event from which a national day of  
22 pride sprang.

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24 NOW THEREFORE,  
25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL  
26 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

27  
28 That the State of Arkansas acknowledge Juneteenth as one of the oldest  
29 African American celebrations during this Black History Month of February,  
30 2003, and all Arkansans are asked to recognize and note this important  
31 holiday with knowledge and appreciation of African American history and  
32 culture.