

**JOINT RESOLUTION RESOLVING AND  
RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE  
DAY IN UTAH**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Duane E. Bourdeaux**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature designates June 17, 2006 as Juneteenth Independence Day in Utah.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▸ designates June 17, 2006 as Juneteenth Independence Day in Utah to commemorate the proclamation of freedom for all slaves in the South in 1865.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, America's Independence Day movement, initiated by the Declaration of Independence and the "4th of July" in 1776, did not include the enslaved descendants of African-Americans, nor were they recognized as fully human beings;

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of the United States in 1861, and as President Lincoln believed and stated that the paramount object of the Civil War was to save the Union rather than save or destroy slavery;

WHEREAS, President Lincoln had also stated his wish was that all men everywhere



could be free, thus adding to a growing anticipation by slaves that their ultimate liberation was at hand;

WHEREAS, in 1862, the first clear signs that the end of slavery was imminent came when laws abolishing slavery in the territories of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico were passed;

WHEREAS, in September of that same year, President Lincoln warned 11 rebellious Confederate states that if they did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves forever free via the celebrated Emancipation Proclamation;

WHEREAS, freedom from slavery was initiated by the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and formally announced by Union General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas on the "19th of June," 1865, through the reading of General Order No. 3, to the last group of slaves in bondage, creating America's second Independence Day Celebration and the oldest African-American holiday observance, the "19th of June," Juneteenth Independence Day;

WHEREAS, spontaneous celebrations erupted throughout the country when African-Americans learned of their freedom, which have continued, and demonstrate the significance and status of Americans of African descent;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the South by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln;

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

WHEREAS, for the first time in over 130 years of annual celebration, Juneteenth has finally been "officially recognized" as Juneteenth Independence Day in America by the President and Congress of the United States;

WHEREAS, Utah has celebrated the rich history and heritage of African-Americans through the Annual Juneteenth Day Celebration for over 130 years;

WHEREAS, the Project Success Coalition has kept Juneteenth Independence Day alive by sponsoring a statewide celebration for 16 years that embraces the rich heritage and contributions of Blacks in Utah and the world, and serves on the Board of the National

59 Juneteenth Observance Foundation;

60 WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries of origin  
61 share in a common love of and respect for "freedom," as well as a determination to protect their  
62 right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "tenets of freedom" are  
63 guaranteed and protected;

64 WHEREAS, the "19th of June" or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the "4th of  
65 July," completes the "cycle of freedom" for America's Independence Day observances; and

66 WHEREAS, "Until All are Free, None are Free" is an oft repeated maxim that can be  
67 used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
69 designates the third Saturday in June, June 17, 2006, as Juneteenth Independence Day in Utah.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Project  
71 Success Coalition and the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-26-06 11:20 AM**

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**Fiscal Note****Bill Number HJR020****Joint Resolution Resolving and Recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day in  
Utah***01-Feb-06**11:10 AM*

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**State Impact**

Mailing requirements of this resolution can be handled within existing budgets.

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**Individual and Business Impact**

No fiscal impact.

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**