

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3033**

Introduced by

Representatives Glassheim, Hawken, Winrich

Senators Bakke, Fiebiger

- 1 A concurrent resolution designating June 19 as Juneteenth National Freedom Day.
- 2 **WHEREAS**, millions of people survived voyages stacked in the bottom of slave ships in
- 3 a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle Passage; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, millions of free people from both the North and South died in the Civil War
- 5 which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and passage of the 13th Amendment to the
- 6 Constitution of the United States which abolished slavery throughout the United States; and
- 7 **WHEREAS**, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, more than
- 8 two years after Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and publicly announced for
- 9 the first time that all slaves were free and equal citizens of the United States; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, upon learning that they were free, the last slaves to be freed erupted in
- 11 spontaneous celebrations of this announcement on what has come to be called Juneteenth;
- 12 and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, 29 states and the District of Columbia celebrate Juneteenth with either
- 14 annual holidays or annual observances; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, the city of Grand Forks has celebrated Juneteenth since 2000 with the help
- 16 and support of the Office of Multicultural Student Services at the University of North Dakota in
- 17 conjunction with the Grand Forks Air Force Base; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, the Grand Forks Air Force Base opened its doors to host the first
- 19 Juneteenth Celebration in the history of North Dakota which included communities and service
- 20 men and women from across the state of North Dakota;
- 21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
- 22 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**
- 23 That June 19 be known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Dakota and that
- 24 the Governor sign an annual proclamation encouraging North Dakotans to celebrate this

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- 1 historic day of freedom and to reflect on the continuing efforts called for by individuals, groups,
- 2 and nations to achieve freedom and liberation; and
- 3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this
- 4 resolution to the Governor.