

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Glassheim

1 A concurrent resolution ??? _____ North Dakota Juneteenth state holiday observance
2 resolution.

3 **WHEREAS**, over eleven million African-Americans survived the voyage stacked in the
4 bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle
5 Passage; and

6 **WHEREAS**, those who died during the Middle Passage are likely greater than the
7 number of survivors, who were subjected to whipping, castration, branding and rape, and forced
8 to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after arriving in the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, millions of free people from both North and South died in the Civil War
10 which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the
11 United States Constitution which abolished slavery throughout the United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, more than
13 two years after Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, and publicly announced for
14 the first time that all slaves were free and equal citizens of the United States; and

15 **WHEREAS**, upon learning that they were free, the last slaves to be freed erupted in
16 spontaneous celebrations of this announcement on what has come to be called Juneteenth;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, 29 states and the District of Columbia celebrate Juneteenth with either
19 annual holidays or annual observances; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Grand Forks has celebrated Juneteenth since 2000 with the help and
21 support of the office of Multicultural Student Services at the University of North Dakota in
22 conjunction with the Grand Forks Air Force Base; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 2000 the Grand Forks Air Force Base opened its doors to host the first
24 Juneteenth Celebration in the history of North Dakota that included communities and service
25 men and women from across the state of North Dakota; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2001 some 2,500 residents from Grand Forks and the surrounding
2 communities attended a Juneteenth celebration at the Grand Forks Marketplace;

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
4 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

5 That June 19 shall be known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Dakota and
6 that the Governor shall sign an annual proclamation encouraging North Dakotans to celebrate
7 this historic day of freedom and to reflect on the continuing efforts called for by individuals,
8 groups, and nations to achieve freedom and liberation.