

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**, over 11,000,000 African-Americans survived voyages stacked in the
3 bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle
4 Passage; and

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

9 **WHEREAS**, millions of free people from both the North and South died in the Civil War
10 which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and passage of the 13th Amendment to the
11 Constitution of the United States 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**, the city of Grand Forks has celebrated Juneteenth since 2000 with the help
21 and 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 which included communities and service
25 men and women from across the state of North Dakota; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2001, some 2,500 residents of 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 be known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Dakota and that
6 the Governor sign an annual proclamation encouraging North Dakotans to celebrate this
7 historic day of freedom and to reflect on the continuing efforts called for by individuals, groups,
8 and nations to achieve freedom and liberation; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this
10 resolution to the Governor.