

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

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.