

2009 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3033

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3033

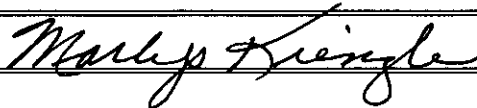
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 12, 2009

Recorder Job Number: #9341

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Grande: Opened the hearing for HCR 3033

Rep Glasshaeim: Representative of Grand Forks.

HCR 3033 calls upon the Governor to assign an annual proclamation encouraging the state of North Dakota to celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth is putting together June and the nineteenth. June 19, 1865 is when federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX and announced to slaves that have been freed by the Emancipation proclamation two years earlier.

In most states this is not a paid holiday and this Resolution would not ask for it to be a paid holiday.

Testimony attached # 1.

Chairman Grande: Do we have other states that have done this and is this the same language that is used in the other resolutions?

Rep Glasshaeim: 29 other states have done this. I got a few of them and put pieces to make this resolution.

Chairman Grande: There is not uniformity amongst all the states?

Rep Glasshaeim: They send them out and I would take some things out that seemed excessive to me. I basic took this from 5 other resolutions.

Rep Dahl: In the "second where as clause" there is some pretty colorful language. Would you be opposed to taking some of that out and leaving it to say "Where as the number of those who died in the middle passages might be greater than those who survived?"

Rep Glasshaeim: Not at all. And maybe add that they suffered greatly.

Rep Winrich: On page one it talks about the Grand Forks Base celebrating Junteenth Day. How wide spread is this in the military, generally?

Rep Glasshaeim: No I really don't. I suspect in cases where there are military bases where there are more African Americans it may be celebrated.

Rep Froseth: I do see this as a noble cause. My fear is that this could lead to another day off as a State Holiday.

Rep Glasshaeim: I do not intend it to become a state holiday.

Vice Chairman Boehning: Of the 29 states that have adopt this of these states how many have adopted this as a state holiday/

Rep Glasshaeim: Texas has this as a partial holiday. Most of the other states have a state holiday and are recognized as a observances by private groups.

Rep Meier: I see that 12 other states listed as an official holiday.

Andrew Varvel: Bismarck, ND

Testimony attachments #2

Rep Wolf: Where is Fort Clark?

Andrew Varvel: Fort Clark is in Mercer County and south of Lake Sakakawea.

Rep Dahl: You really do know your North Dakota History. Do you have a degree in this?

Andrew Varvel: Yes I have a Bachelors Degree is in history and I have specialized in North

Dakota History.

Rep Meier: Is this smallpox virus listed in the ND history books?

Andrew Varvel: I am not sure. I have not looked in history books for the children but this information is in the Historical Society.

Rep Winrich: It occurs to me that both of these events should be know with respect that we are a very diverse country and population. Is there any way we could respect both of these events with some kind of observation.

Andrew Varvel: I do think it could be conceivable, but the state of North Dakota needs to be very careful exactly how we would recognize each event on that day. It is definitely two different kinds of celebration and two boats. One boat brought freedom and the other a bad decease.

Rep Amerman: There are five tribes in the US: do they hold the 19th of June as a day of remembrance?

Andrew Varvel: As far as I know they don't. Some people forget and for some it is a sore point.

Rep Glasshaeim: I would hate to see Black History and Indian History go against each other. This would suggest celebration of freedom and liberation and this would not in consistent to have discussions that arise from the Juneteenth Celebrations of this event.

Hearing closed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. Committee Work One HCR 3033

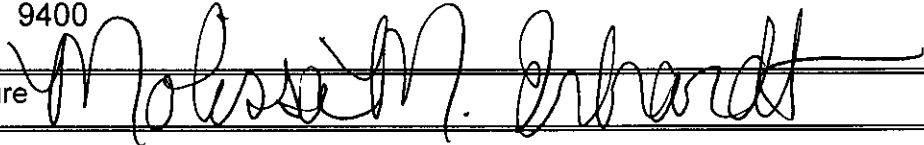
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 2/12/2009

Recorder Job Number: 9400

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

COMMITTEE WORK ONE:

Chairman Grande: We will have discussion on HCR 3033.

Rep. Froseth: Motion for a Do Not Pass.

Rep. Kasper: 2nd.

Rep. Winrich: I am going to resist a Do Not Pass. I think Andrew Varvel made an excellent point. I am not sure how to deal with it. But if we simply defeat this and we don't do anything there is not going to be more discussion about either of these topics and I think it is something that should be part of people's awareness of our culture and customs and the way this nation developed. What I am hoping is that we keep this alive and perhaps in the process through the Senate we may be able to figure out something that would allow us to highlight both of these important events in our history and some sort of observation.

Chairman Grande: We could mourn in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon.

Rep. Dahl: I think that there is a way to amend this to make it less graphic.

Chairman Grande: We have a motion for a Do Not Pass. Call the Roll.

Clerk Erhardt: Roll Call. Yes: 6. No: 6. Absent: 1. Motion fails.

Rep. Dahl: Move to amend this and strike Line 6, subjected to whipping, castration, branding, and raped.

Chairman Grande: Do you want to get rid of from the word "and" to the word "raped" and then it would read; "The number of those who died would be greater than the number who survived and forced to submit."

Rep. Dahl: "And were forced to submit."

Chairman Grande: So you will get rid of from "and" to "raped."

Rep. Kasper: Is there a 2nd for this Amendment.

Rep. Wolf: 2nd.

Rep. Kasper: We have no way of knowing that the number who died is greater than the number who survived. That is a statement that is pure fabrication and pure guesswork.

Rep. Dahl: It does not state that, it just says it is likely, but if we want to amend the whole thing we should.

Rep. Kasper: Line 5, The number of those died during the middle passage is likely greater than the number of those who survived, is a pure fabrication.

Chairman Grande: The other concern before we get to far on all of this is the last whereas; In 2001, some 2500 residents, that is really truly a misstatement and Rep. Glassheim really alluded to it all. That is how many people showed up at Marketplace but that does not mean that who is showed up for (not sure of word), that is a misstatement.

Rep. Dahl: Can I withdraw my amendment and then just strike Lines 5-8 and on Page 2 Lines 1 and 2.

Rep. Wolf: I remove my 2nd and my re- 2nd.

Chairman Grande: Currently we are removing the 2nd whereas and the last whereas.

Rep. Kasper: Who has verified that 11 million African-Americans came over here, on the first whereas. That is another number that is pulled out of air that somebody feels good about saying without any proof at all that the number is correct.

Chairman Grande: Let's take up the amendments that we have. Let's get rid of five in the last one. All in favor? I. Consent. All. Now, we can further amend any lines.

Rep. Kasper: I move we amend out Lines 2-4.

Vice Chairman Randy Boehning: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: So you are taking out all of the first whereas?

Rep. Kasper: Yes.

Rep. Amerman: If you strike over 11 million and just put “whereas millions of African-Americans” instead of having a number there, how would that be?

Rep. Kasper: Do we know it is a million?

Chairman Grande: They were not African-Americans when they were brought over. So are you going to just say that African’s survived the voyage?

Rep. Kasper: I have a motion and I’d like to remove it also.

Chairman Grande: We have a motion to remove it all, do we have a second?

Vice Chairman Randy Boehning: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: To remove the first whereas is before us, all in favor say I? Opposed. Rep. Winrich.

Rep. Wolf: I would like to offer the amendment for Line 2 to say millions and remove “over 11 million” and just say “millions of.”

Rep. Dahl: Strike over “11 million African-American’s” and it would just say “millions survived.”

Rep. Wolf: Exactly. It should just say “millions”.

Chairman Grande: Does everyone see “millions survived voyage”. That is the amendment by Wolf, do I have a second?

Rep. Dahl: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: All in favor say I? Opposed: Vice Chairman Randy

Boehning. We have the first whereas as amended there is no second one we have the third one. We are okay with that, the fourth one, the fifth one, the sixth one, the seventh one, and are we going to have an issue in a year or so if somebody other than multicultural students want their name in here?

Rep. Winrich: By then it is up to the Governor.

Chairman Grande: We have the wording for, now therefore. The amended bill is before us.

Rep. Dahl: Motion for a Do Pass As Amended.

Rep. Wolf: 2nd.

Chairman Grande: Discussion?

Vice Chairman Randy Boehning: I am not going to vote in favor of this resolution. I think we as a country are trying to get ourselves amended and all we do is put in resolutions and bringing up the past and saying how bad it was. I think that we need to move on, I shouldn't say forget about it, but let's move on with everything. We just keep bringing up the past and bringing up the past all the time and it seems like we are bringing more rifts all the time with this stuff and maybe it is an important date but so are a lot of other dates and I think that our founders did wrong with the slaves, at that time it was probably right, but I am

just going to resist a Do Pass on this. Let's just move on, we already have Martin Luther King Day that celebrates the Blacks.

Rep. Dahl: Rep. Kasper has talked about the relationship between the federal government and the tribes. But we also need to recognize that there has been poor treatment by the Federal Government and other governments towards African-Americans as well. On Lincoln's birthday today I think that this is appropriate that we are recognizing them in this resolution the emancipation of an entire race of people and I don't think that should be controversial.

Rep. Froseth: Do we have a motion? Call for question?

Chairman Grande: We have a Do Pass As Amended in front of us. Clerk will call the roll.

Clerk Erhardt: Roll Call. Yes: 6. No: 6. Absent: 1. Carrier: Rep. Dahl.

Chairman Grande: We will send this out with no recommendation.

VR
2/13/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3033

Page 1, line 2, replace "over 11,000,000 African-Americans" with "millions of people"

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 8

Page 1, line 25, remove the second "and"

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/12/04
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HR 3033

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DNP

Motion Made By Froseth Seconded By Kasper

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Grande	✓		Rep. Amerman		✓
Vice Chairman Boehning	✓		Rep. Conklin		✓
Rep. Dahl		✓	Rep. Schneider		✓
Rep. Froseth	✓		Rep. Winrich		✓
Rep. Karls	✓		Rep. Wolf		✓
Rep. Kasper	✓				
Rep. Meier					
Rep. Nathe	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/12/09
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3033

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass As Amended

Motion Made By Dahl Seconded By Wolf

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Grande		✓	Rep. Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Boehning		✓	Rep. Conklin	✓	
Rep. Dahl	✓		Rep. Schneider	✓	
Rep. Froseth		✓	Rep. Winrich	✓	
Rep. Karls		✓	Rep. Wolf	✓	
Rep. Kasper		✓			
Rep. Meier					
Rep. Nathe		✓			

Total (Yes) 6 No 6

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Dahl

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
No Recommendation

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3033: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Grande, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION** (6 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3033 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, replace "over 11,000,000 African-Americans" with "millions of people"

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 8

Page 1, line 25, remove the second "and"

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Renumber accordingly

2009 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3033

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.3033

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/20/09

Recorder Job Number: 11347

Committee Clerk Signature *Kate Oliver*

Minutes:

Representative Eliot Glassheim: District 18 in Grand Forks. See attached testimony #1.

The day the emancipation proc was signed. Many slaves had no knowledge of it until after 1865. Word came to Galveston that the slaves were freed and there was rejoicing. After that Texas celebrated it but at this point 29 states have recognized this day. In the material that I passed out there is a letter from G.W. Bush saying it is not just an African American holiday. Additional information is attached from Wikipedia. Some folks at the UND Cultural Center asked that we add our name to the 29 states that celebrate this event.

Representative Larry Winrich: District 18 in Grand Forks. I wanted to appear to assure you of my support. I think that it is important to celebrate events in our nation and the accomplishment of others. Not a state holiday, simply a note of this day in our history. Original bill used some questionable language as to how they were treated on their voyage from Africa. We took that language out.

Andrew Varvel: See attached testimony #2.

Senator Horne: What is your background?

Andrew Varvel: I hold 2 degrees from UND, one in history and one in geology. Although I specialized in university history at that time I am presently doing research on the fur trade in the early 19th Century in present day North Dakota.

Senator Dever: Do you do that for the Historical Society?

Andrew Varvel: No, actually it is basically my own research so far.

Senator Oehlke: Back in May 5, 1832 when Congress passed a law mandating vaccination of Indian Tribes, do you think that they thought there was enough military or doctors to get the job done out west?

Andrew Varvel: I do not know I have not gone through the committee reports on that bill. 4 days after that bill was passed that the secretary of war sent a letter to John Droughty to not send vaccinations past a certain point; he also insured that the vaccine would only be in the hands of surgeons. There is a letter that you can find in Indian Archives, insofar as I can tell there may have been a concern about logistics. Fur Company was able to conduct trade here and it is hard for me to imagine that if all of these people would come up here that small pox vaccine could also not have come up here.

Senator Oehlke: More of an accident than anything?

Andrew Varvel: Insofar as I am aware, there was no intent to kill people and this was an oversight.

Senator Horne: There may have been something that we will never know. Indians so helpful to Lewis and Clark why would people want to cause them harm

Andrew Varvel: Insofar as I can tell there was no attempt to harm people that helped Lewis and Clark expedition. Mandan village was not a party to that conflict. I think that the USA ought to consider those who have helped us.

Jerry Saude: See attached testimony #3.

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.3033

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/20/09

Recorder Job Number: 11349

Committee Clerk Signature

Katea Oliver

Minutes:

Senator Cook: The last citizen to testify made a good point; July 4th is our national freedom day.

Senator Horne: He made a great point; it's too bad that the originators of this movement didn't name it a little more specifically.

Senator Dever: Isn't Martin Luther King Day civil rights day?

Senator Horne: If this is part of a national effort can we amend it or do we have to sign on to the wording of the national flow of this thing.

Senator Dever: It is not like a uniform law, just a resolution and says the governor has to issue a proclamation and I am not sure that a resolution can require that he do that.

Senator Cook: I think that it is more of a fad.

A motion was made by Senator Oehlke with a second by Senator Cook for a do not pass.

There was no discussion and roll was taken and the motion passed 3-2 with Senator Oehlke carrying the bill to the floor.

Date: 3-20-09
Roll Call Vote #: 1

Carrier
Oehlke

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3033

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Oehlke Seconded By Cook

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Dick Dever	X		Dwight Cook	X	
Dave Oehlke	X		Carolyn Nelson		X
Robert M. Horne		X			

Total Yes 3 No 2

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3033, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (3 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HCR 3033 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HCR 3033



The Juneteenth Store



What is Juneteenth? Where is Juneteenth? The Middle Passage Registry Store Contact Us Pronunciation



Juneteenth Celebrations



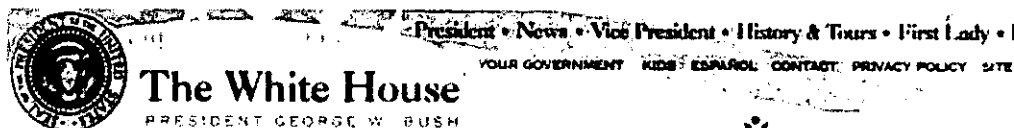
- Welcome
- About Juneteenth
- Anniversary
- Newsletter
- How to Celebrate
- The White House
- DNC
- US Celebrations
- International
- Post Your Event
- In the Classroom
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- Home



"The Middle Passage" By Tom Feelings



Juneteenth Commemorative Stamp Campaign



For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
June 19, 2008

Presidential Message on Juneteenth

June 2008

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

On Juneteenth, we commemorate the arrival of Major General Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas, and his declaration that slavery had been abolished and the blessings of liberty were finally extended to African Americans.

On this occasion, we recognize the many contributions that African Americans have made to our great Nation and honor the legacy of diversity that America has embraced. Today is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to confronting injustice wherever we find it and upholding the dignity of all people. By doing so, we protect the freedom and democratic ideals that will keep America strong for generations to come.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this memorable occasion.

GEORGE W. BUSH

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<<<back

Juneteenth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Juneteenth, also known as **Freedom Day** or **Emancipation Day**, commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. State of Texas. Celebrated on June 19, the term is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth*, and is an official annual holiday in 29 of the United States.^[1]

Contents

- 1 Observation
- 2 History
- 3 In literature
- 4 Traditions
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Observation

The holiday originated in Galveston, Texas; for more than a century, the state of Texas was the primary home of Juneteenth celebrations, however, one small community in Arkansas (Wilmar) boasts that its celebration, called "June Dinner" has been consistently observed and celebrated, except for one year, since approximately 1870. Since 1980, Juneteenth has been an official state holiday in Texas. It is considered a "partial staffing holiday" meaning that state offices do not close but

some employees will be using a floating holiday to take the day off.^[2] Twelve other states list it as an official holiday, including Arkansas, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Alaska. In California, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed June 19th "Juneteenth" on June 19, 2005,^{[3][4]} however, some of these states, such as Connecticut, do not consider it a legal holiday and do not close government offices in observance of the occasion.^[5] Its informal observance has spread to some other states, with a few celebrations even taking place in other countries.^{[6] [4]}

As of June 2008, 29 states^[1] and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or state holiday observance; these include Alaska,^[4] Arkansas, California,^[4] Colorado, Connecticut,^[4] Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan,^[7] New Jersey,^[4] New Mexico, New York,^[4] North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas,^[1] Vermont,^[1] Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

History

Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date

Juneteenth

Also called	Freedom Day or Emancipation Day
Observed by	Residents of the United States, especially African Americans in Texas
Type	Ethnic, Historical
Significance	Emancipation of slaves in Texas
Date	June 19
Observances	Exploration and celebration of diversity and African American history



Juneteenth celebration in Austin, Texas on 19 June 1900

of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. Legend has it while standing on the balcony of Galveston's Ashton Villa, Granger read the contents of "General Order No. 3":

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not or elsewhere.^[8]

That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name derived from a portmanteau of the words June and nineteenth.

Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations. Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year.^[8] Across many parts of Texas, freed people pooled their funds to purchase land specifically for their communities' increasingly large Juneteenth gatherings — including Houston's Emancipation Park, Mexia's Booker T. Washington Park, and Emancipation Park in Austin.^[8] Juneteenth celebrations include a wide range of festivities, such as parades, street fairs, cookouts, or park parties and include such things as music and dancing or even contests of physical strength and intellect. Baseball and other popular American games may also be played.

In literature

Ralph Ellison's second novel *Juneteenth* deals with this holiday and its traditions. *Juneteenth* was published posthumously.

Carolyn Meyer's novel *Jubilee Journey* is the story of one young biracial girl celebrating Juneteenth with her relatives in Texas, while also learning to be proud of her African American heritage.

Ann Rinaldi's historical novel *Come Juneteenth* is the story of how Juneteenth came to be, and follows the life of a young white plantation-owner's daughter in Texas during the Civil War whose family faces tragedy after their mulatto half-sister runs away when learning they lied to her about being free.

Traditions

Juneteenth is traditionally celebrated with a large feast served as an all day meal in a park or outdoor space. The traditional dishes of Juneteenth are served pot luck and usually include portions of barbecue, cakes, fresh fruit and vegetables, and pies. The traditional cuisine of the Juneteenth celebration includes barbecue, greens, pies, baked bread, red soda, home-made ice cream, and watermelon.^[9]

The food items of Juneteenth are steeped in tradition themselves. On the first Juneteenth in 1865 the formerly enslaved brothers held a feast to celebrate their freedom from chains by eating watermelon and red soda in Galveston.^[10]

Other traditions include an announced public reading of the Emancipation Proclamation as a reminder

that the slaves have been proclaimed free. Many African-American families use this opportunity to retrace their ancestry to the enslaved ancestors, who were held in bondage for centuries. Celebrants often sing traditional songs as well such as *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and poetry from African-Americans authors like Maya Angelou.^[1]

See also

- Slavery in the United States
- Emancipation Day
- African American



References

- [^] ^{*a b c d*} "Vermont adopts Juneteenth". <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080611/NEWS02/806110310/1009/NEWS01>. Retrieved on 11 June 2008.
- [^] "Official Holidays of the State of Texas". *State of Texas website*. <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/holidays.html>. Retrieved on 6 July 2006.
- [^] ""Governor Schwarzenegger Proclaims June 19th "Juneteenth"" . *Proclamation by the Governor of the State of California*. <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/proclamation/2062/>. Retrieved on 16 May 2007.
- [^] ^{*a b c d e f g*} Moskin, Julie (18 June 2004). "An Obscure Texas Celebration Makes Its Way Across the U.S." (HTML). *The New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/18/national/18june.html?ex=1402891200&en=81d7a9a2f150231c&ei=5007&partner=USERLAND>. Retrieved on 17 August 2006.
- [^] "Legal Holidays in Connecticut". *State of Connecticut website*. <http://www.ct.gov/ctportal/cwp/view.asp?a=843&q=246434>. Retrieved on 6 July 2006.
- [^] "The World Celebrates Freedom" (HTML). <http://www.juneteenth.com/international.htm>. Retrieved on 19 June 2006.
- [^] "Juneteenth Freedom Day". http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_25488_47946-194263--,00.html. Retrieved on 15 January 2009.
- [^] ^{*a b c*} "Juneteenth". *State of Texas website*. <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/juneteenth.html>. Retrieved on 6 July 2006.
- [^] Charles A. Taylor. 2002. *Juneteenth: A Celebration*. Open Hand Publishing, LLC. p. 28
- [^] *Killeen ready to celebrate Juneteenth June 12, 2008*.^[1]
- [^] Taylor, 2002. pp. 28-29

External links

- Juneteenth World Wide Celebration
- 19th of June
- Juneteenth from the *Handbook of Texas Online*
- Texas State Library's Juneteenth page
- Dallas' annual Juneteenth film festival
- Festival for Charlotte, NC and surrounding area
- Juneteenth America, Inc.--California Juneteenth
- Rappahannock Regional Juneteenth Celebration
- National Juneteenth Observance Foundation
- Juneteenth New Jersey Celebration
- Juneteenth Maryland Celebration
- Pennsylvania Juneteenth Coalition
- Massachusetts to 'recognize' Juneteenth Boston Globe
- ^[2] Rappahannock Regional Juneteenth Celebration

Testimony to the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee
February 12, 2009

HR 3033

Attachment
#2

Chairman Grande and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Varvel. I sadly oppose this well-intentioned resolution.

The abolition of slavery is a worthy cause. The legal abolition of slavery in the United States of America is worthy of celebration. That said, I would caution against putting June Nineteenth onto our official calendar as a day of celebration because June Nineteenth has a special meaning in the context of North Dakota history – indeed in the context of federal Indian policy.

I fully realize that the political movement to turn June 19th into a national holiday has the full support of President Obama. Yet, I doubt that President Obama or anybody else in the political movement to make this day a national holiday fully comprehends what June 19th means for North Dakota history.

On June 19, 1837, the steamboat Saint Peters landed at Fort Clark, *unloading its cargo*. Part of the cargo on that boat was the smallpox virus. Although the principal vector of smallpox infection may have come through Fort Union rather than Fort Clark, June 19, 1837 is still a watershed event in American history and in North Dakota history, marking the passing of one era and the start of another. June 19th marks one of the most catastrophic examples of negligence on the part of the federal government of the United States, negligence that killed thousands of members of the same tribes that had once hosted the Lewis and Clark expedition.

This smallpox epidemic was not merely an act of nature. It could have been prevented. In Rupert's Land (modern day Manitoba), the Hudson's Bay Company effectively prevented the outbreak of smallpox while the same disease hit the Upper Missouri River basin hard. In 1832, Congress had charged the War Department with the responsibility of vaccinating American Indians. (See APPENDIX.) The War Department utterly failed to accomplish the task it was assigned to do by Congress.

June Nineteenth has heartfelt meaning for Texans and rightly so. The meaning of celebrating June 19th would be very different depending on whether one lives in Houston or in North Dakota. It would make me feel very uncomfortable to mark June 19th as an official day of celebration in North Dakota because of what the 19th of June means for North Dakota history. Chairman Grande and members of the committee, I hope you can understand why I regard June 19th not as a day for celebration here but rather as a time for somber remembrance.

I recognize and respect the good intentions of those who would like to recognize June 19th as a day for rejoicing. And yet, any official proclamation by the State of North Dakota marking June 19th ought to reflect the importance of North Dakota's history and North Dakota's heritage. I recommend against passing this resolution.

Thank you.

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APPENDIX

The Act of May 5, 1832. Twenty-second Congress, Session I.
Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America, Volume
IV. (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1846), 514-515.

CHAP. LXXV. – *An Act to provide the means of extending the benefits of vaccination, as a preventive of the small-pox, to the Indian tribes, and thereby, as far as possible, to save them from the destructive ravages of that disease.*

Be it enacted by the States and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the several Indian agents and sub-agents, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to take such measures as he shall deem most efficient, to convene the Indian tribes in their respective towns, or in such other places and numbers, and at such seasons as shall be most convenient to the Indian population, for the purpose of arresting the progress of small-pox among the several tribes by vaccination.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War be, and he hereby is, empowered to employ as many physicians or surgeons, from the army or resident on the frontier near the point where their services shall be required, as he may find necessary for the execution of this act; and if necessary, two competent persons to conduct the physicians to the remote Indians who are infected, or may be in immediate danger of being infected, with the small-pox, whose compensation shall be twenty-five dollars per month.*

SEC 3. *And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, to cause all Indian agents to be supplied*

with genuine vaccine matter; and all agents and sub-agents shall use all proper means to persuade the Indian population to submit to vaccination.

SEC 4. *And be it further enacted, That all agents, sub-agents, physicians and surgeons, employed in the execution of this act, shall make monthly returns or reports of their proceedings to the War Department And the Secretary thereof shall submit to Congress, on or before the first of February next, a general report of all proceedings in the premises.*

SEC 5. *And be it further enacted, That, to carry this act into effect, the sum of twelve thousand dollars be appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.*

APPROVED, May 5, 1832.

Those who would like to learn more about the Hudson's Bay Company's vaccination program in modern day Manitoba should consult the following sources.

Hackett, Paul. "Averting Disaster: The Hudson's Bay Company and Smallpox in Western Canada during the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries." Bulletin of the History of Medicine 78, no. 3 (2004): 575-609.

Ray, Arthur J. "Diffusion of Diseases in the western interior of Canada, 1830-1850." Geographical Review 66, no. 2 (1976): 139-157.

Testimony to the Senate Government & Veterans Affairs Committee

March 20, 2009

HCR 3033

Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Varvel. I oppose this resolution as presently written.

I am not here to repeat my House testimony, but you are encouraged to read it as background material. On June 19, three significant events happened in American history. On June 19, 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed in the United States Senate. On June 19, 1865, federal troops landed in Galveston and proclaimed to people there that all people formerly known as slaves were henceforth free and equal citizens of the United States of America. On June 19, 1837, the steamboat St. Peter docked at Fort Clark, on the northern end of present day Oliver County. Among other things, this steamboat carried the smallpox virus, which led to the deaths of thousands of people in present day North Dakota.

Smallpox was a preventable disease by then, and Congress mandated Indian vaccination five years earlier. Although Indians were vaccinated as far up the Missouri as Council Bluffs, they were not vaccinated here. In contrast, the Hudson's Bay

Company's vaccination of Indians north of the 49th parallel was exemplary.

June 19 will probably become a national holiday much as Martin Luther King Day became a national holiday a generation ago. I am well aware of how the winds of change are blowing. Although the smallpox epidemic is still a very upsetting issue at Fort Berthold, I have come to the conclusion that it would be better to recognize painful events in North Dakota's history rather than act as if North Dakota's heritage were not important.

I have considered what language would be appropriate for a day that ought to be called Remembrance Day. Such language needs a somber tone, gravity, and historical accuracy. Included is alternative language for HCR 3033. I hope the sponsors of this bill would regard this language as friendly and I hope the committee will adopt this alternative language in its entirety.

Thank you.

Andrew Varvel; 1800 East Capitol Avenue #258; Bismarck, North Dakota 58501; (701) 255-6639; kiksuya74@yahoo.com

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR HCR 3033

A concurrent resolution designating June 19 as Remembrance Day, also known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

WHEREAS, the abominable institution of slavery existed in the United States until slavery was abolished as a consequence of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution finally made slavery illegal throughout this great land; and

WHEREAS, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, and publicly announced that all slaves were free and equal citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, upon learning that they were free, former slaves in Galveston started spontaneous celebrations of this announcement on what has come to be called "Juneteenth"; and

WHEREAS, 29 states and the District of Columbia now observe Juneteenth each June 19; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed in the United States Senate on June 19, 1964; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 1832, Congress passed a law mandating vaccination of Indian tribes by the War Department and requiring all Indian agents to supplied with genuine vaccine matter; and

WHEREAS, the War Department failed to vaccinate Indians in modern day North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the steamboat Saint Peter carrying smallpox arrived at Fort Clark on June 19, 1837, and arrived at Fort Union five days later; and

WHEREAS, the resulting smallpox epidemic caused the deaths of thousands of people in North Dakota including the vast majority of the Mandan people;

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

That June 19 be known as Remembrance Day, also known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day, and that the Governor sign an annual proclamation encouraging North Dakotans to honor this day with solemn remembrance.

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

March 20, 2009

Testimony on HCR 3033

Friday, March 20, 2009 10:30 AM Missouri River Room

Hon. Senator Dick Dever- Chairman of the Government & Veterans Affairs
Committee

Chairman Dever and members of the GVA committee, my name is Jerry Saude. I thank you for this wonderful privilege and ask that you recommend a **DO NOT PASS** on **HCR 3033** to your Senate colleagues.

I had the opportunity to hear the audio recording of this resolution being presented on the House floor. The chambers were abuzz at the onset of the bill carrier's presentation. Upon questioning the commotion, it was determined that the bill, as originally introduced, was being viewed on the legislator's computer screens. After a short pause the engrossed bill was brought up. The comment I recall from the bill carrier was that the only opposition to this bill was from someone who pointed out that smallpox was brought to the Indian population of what is now ND, on a June 19th date also. So by default, the bill was judged sound, important to North Dakota, passed and is now before you for consideration. I can only speculate the House has deferred to your sound judgment on this matter.

A google search provided the following information on the phrase Juneteenth:

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas. Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had minimal immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control. So on June 19, 1865, nearly 3 years later, Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves.

March 20, 2009

The people of North Dakota come from a wide background of ethnicities and each has its customs and traditions that they may choose to celebrate. They bring about a sense of pride and also a means in which to educate the next generations. It's great fun to celebrate the 17th May, if you are Norwegian. Sauerkraut days in Wishek bring German pride to all who attend. The pioneers of this state knew oppression in Europe also. They may not have been slaves, but they knew what freedom in America might be. They came to better themselves.

This resolution, in its "Be It Resolved" statement says that North Dakota will have a National Freedom Day on June 19th. I object to that statement. North Dakota has its National Freedom Day on July 4th and it's for all Americans. President Abraham Lincoln declared the emancipation of all, but you are being asked to commemorate a ship arriving in Texas more than two years later with the news. That ship's arrival was important to those Americans in Texas on this date and for that they celebrate. But we should strive to be one America, not two.

I respectfully ask that you do not "*go with the flow*" and compound the wrong-headed direction this movement is taking. North Dakota is a leader in so many ways in this great country. Many of those leadership qualities are in direct opposition to more populous states. Please carry this legislation to your colleagues with a unanimous DO NOT PASS.

Jerry M Saude

1919 162nd Ave NW

Bismarck ND 58503

I have attached the Emancipation Proclamation for your information.

March 20, 2009

The Emancipation Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America:

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas on the 22nd day of September, A.D. 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the executive will on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the first day above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

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Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Palquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebone, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Morthampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all case when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.