

To the office of U.S. Senator John Cornyn

Re: SRES 781 (119th Congress), A resolution commemorating June 19, 2026, as "Juneteenth National Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. • Latest action (2026-07-27): Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S4286)
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Office of record (Congress.gov): 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510, Washington, DC • (202) 224-2934

Juneteenth National Commemoration Act of 2026

The measure, as described from the official record: Formally recognize June 19, 2026, as a national day of commemoration for the end of slavery in the United States, honoring the historical significance of Juneteenth.

THE PROPOSAL

This resolution designates June 19, 2026, as 'Juneteenth National Independence Day' to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States, specifically the date on which Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865 to announce the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation. The resolution encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and educational programs that honor the history and contributions of African Americans. The resolution does not create a federal holiday or mandate any federal spending, but rather serves as a formal expression of Congress's recognition of the historical significance of Juneteenth. The resolution shall take effect upon its adoption and shall expire on June 20, 2026, after the designated commemoration day has passed.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Funding Source	No federal funds are authorized or appropriated for this resolution.
Funding Amount	\$0
Sunset Years	1 years
Oversight Body	The Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate shall ensure the resolution is recorded in the Congressional Record.
Enforcement Mechanism	No enforcement mechanism is required as this is a non-binding resolution expressing the sense of Congress.
Effective Date	Upon adoption by both chambers of Congress.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (Congress's power to provide for the general welfare through expressions of recognition)
- First Amendment (Congress's ability to express symbolic speech through resolutions)
- Tenth Amendment (reserving to the states any powers not delegated to the federal government, including the creation of state holidays)

WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

Democratic priorities honored: Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth and the end of slavery, promoting racial justice and education, and honoring African American heritage.

Republican priorities honored: Avoiding new federal mandates or spending, respecting state and local autonomy in commemorations, and using a non-binding resolution rather than creating a new federal holiday.

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