

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 56

Celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. FROST, and Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

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## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

Celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

Whereas news of the end of slavery came late to frontier areas of the country, especially in the American Southwest;

Whereas the African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest thereafter celebrated Juneteenth as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas their descendants handed down that tradition from generation to generation as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas Juneteenth celebrations have thus been held for 130 years to honor the memory of all those who endured slavery and especially those who moved from slavery to freedom; and

Whereas their example of faith and strength of character remains a lesson for all Americans today, regardless of background or region or race: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
 3 That—

4            (1) the celebration of the end of slavery is an  
 5 important and enriching part of our country’s his-  
 6 tory and heritage;

7            (2) the celebration of the end of slavery pro-  
 8 vides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more  
 9 about our common past and to better understand  
 10 the experiences that have shaped our Nation; and

11           (3) a copy of this joint resolution be transmit-  
 12 ted to the National Association of Juneteenth Lin-  
 13 eage as an expression of appreciation for its role in  
 14 promoting the observance of the end of slavery.

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