



State of Wisconsin  
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3559/1  
CMH:cjs

## 2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 64

June 20, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives FIELDS, BOWEN, CROWLEY, HAYWOOD, L. MYERS, STUBBS, ALLEN, ANDERSON, BILLINGS, BROSTOFF, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, DOYLE, EMERSON, GOYKE, GRUSZYNSKI, HEBL, HINTZ, HORLACHER, KOLSTE, NEUBAUER, PETRYK, RIEMER, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPREITZER, C. TAYLOR, THIESFELDT, TUSLER, VINING, VRUWINK and DITTRICH, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, BEWLEY, KOOYENGA, LARSON, MILLER, SCHACHTNER, SHILLING and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Rules.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

1     **Relating to:** recognizing June 19, 2019, as the 57th celebration of Juneteenth Day  
2             in the State of Wisconsin.

3             Whereas, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the  
4     ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that  
5     the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston,  
6     Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

7             Whereas, this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation  
8     Proclamation—which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation  
9     Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union  
10    troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General  
11    Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were  
12    finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance; and

13            Whereas, attempts to explain this two and one-half year delay in the receipt  
14    of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down  
15    through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his

1 way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately  
2 withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations; and

3       Whereas, the federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the  
4 benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation  
5 Proclamation. All of which, or neither of these versions could be true. Certainly, for  
6 some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. For  
7 whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what  
8 was statutory; and

9       Whereas, Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc., has sponsored Juneteenth  
10 festivities for all 57 years. Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom  
11 and achievement while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all  
12 cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic, and even global perspective, the  
13 events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil  
14 from which a national day of pride is growing; and

15       Whereas, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has one of the largest celebrations in the  
16 United States, and in 2019 there will be a variety of festivities: Miss & Little Miss  
17 Juneteenth Pageant and Juneteenth Parade and Festival that thousands  
18 participate in and attend; and

19       Whereas, Northcott Neighborhood House's Executive Director MacArthur  
20 Weddle and Program Director Adriane Griffin will serve as the 2019 Grand Marshals  
21 of the Juneteenth Parade, they have been the leaders and trailblazers of the success  
22 of Juneteenth festivities in Milwaukee and a model for other cities to replicate for  
23 decades; now, therefore, be it

