

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1486**

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Sponsors: Representatives Womble; Adams, Braswell, Cunningham, Hardaway, Hensley, Luebke, McAllister, McCrary, Michaux, Oldham, Wainwright, and Yongue.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

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June 15, 1999

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH AND HONORING  
2 THE MEMORY OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN-  
3 AMERICANS WHO WERE ENSLAVED IN THIS COUNTRY.

4 Whereas, on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation  
5 Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln, news that slavery had been  
6 abolished reached the state of Texas; and

7 Whereas, former slaves in Texas began to observe June 19 as the anniversary  
8 of their emancipation and coined the term "Juneteenth"; and

9 Whereas, as these former slaves and their descendants began to migrate,  
10 Juneteenth celebrations were held throughout the nation; and

11 Whereas, for more than 130 years, Juneteenth has been commemorated  
12 annually and the number of people participating in the event has grown; and

13 Whereas, in 1998, the United States Senate passed a resolution encouraging the  
14 annual observance of June 19 as Juneteenth Independence Day; and

15 Whereas, the historical significance of Juneteenth is worthy of recognition and  
16 celebration; Now, therefore,

17 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

18 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of the hundreds of  
19 thousands of African-Americans who were enslaved in this country and encourages the  
20 people of this State to actively participate in Juneteenth celebrations.

21 Section 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.