

1999 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 29

March 23, 2000 – Introduced by Representatives COGGS, YOUNG, MORRIS-TATUM, RILEY, TURNER, WILLIAMS and COLON. Referred to Calendar.

1 **Relating to:** supporting and urging support for the WASHINGTON JUNETEENTH
2 2000 NATIONAL HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE, on the National Mall, Lincoln
3 Memorial and U.S. capital grounds, scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2000.

4 Whereas, more than 130 years old, Juneteenth National Freedom Day is the
5 oldest and only African-American holiday observance in the United States, which
6 is also known as “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” “Freedom Day,”
7 “Jun-Jun” and “Juneteenth”; and

8 Whereas, Juneteenth National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due
9 to God-given strength and determination, of African-Americans, who were first
10 brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey
11 across the Atlantic Ocean, known as the “Middle Passage”; and

12 Whereas, approximately 11,500,00 African-Americans survived the voyage to
13 the New World (the number that died is likely greater), only to be subjected to
14 whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced
15 submission to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and

1 Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates the day on which freedom was
2 proclaimed to all slaves in the South by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865,
3 in Galveston, Texas, more than 2.5 years after the signing of the Emancipation
4 Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and

5 Whereas, for the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration,
6 Juneteenth has finally been “officially recognized” as Juneteenth Independence Day
7 in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

8 Whereas, this reality is particularly underscored by the fact that it was in the
9 1st Session of the 105th Congress, via the bipartisan cooperation of former
10 Congresswoman Barbara Rose-Collins (D-Michigan), former Senator Carol
11 Mosely-Braun (D-Illinois), Congressman J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma), former House
12 Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott
13 (R-Mississippi) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), that
14 Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 were successfully
15 shepherded through both houses of Congress, in a successful effort to officially
16 recognize Juneteenth as the Independence Day observance of Americans of African
17 descent in 1997; and

18 Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and
19 countries-of-origin share in a common love of, and respect for, “freedom,” as well as
20 a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by
21 which the “tenets-of-freedom” are guaranteed and protected; and

22 Whereas, the “19th of June” or Juneteenth Independence Day, along with the
23 “4th of July,” completes the “cycle of freedom” for America’s Independence Day
24 observances; and

1 Whereas, “Until All are Free, None are Free” is an oft-repeated maxim that can
2 be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United
3 States; and

4 Whereas, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation is sponsoring the
5 premier celebration, concert, worship services and campaign to commemorate
6 America’s 2nd Independence Day observance, the “19th of June,” as one which
7 completes the cycle of America’s 18th century Independence Movement, initiated
8 with the “4th of July,” 1776, “Declaration of Independence” and to recognize this
9 country’s movement towards a “One America,” advanced by a sincere dialogue of the
10 realization of what Juneteenth historically means to all Americans, promoting racial
11 healing, restoration and justice; now, therefore, be it

12 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin assembly
13 support this historic recognition and encourage participation of our members,
14 families and communities in the “officially recognized” WASHINGTON
15 JUNETEENTH 2000 NATIONAL HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE, on the National Mall,
16 Lincoln Memorial and U.S. capital grounds, scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2000,
17 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., which will be followed by a Sunday evening Juneteenth
18 Fathers’ Day Benefit Concert honoring African-American Fathers, and a Monday,
19 June 19, 2000, noon rally in support of National Juneteenth Independence Day
20 holiday legislation and a series of evening Juneteenth prayer and praise worship
21 services in churches and houses of worship throughout the Washington, D.C., area
22 and the country; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
24 to the president and secretary of the U.S. senate, to the speaker and clerk of the U.S.
25 house of representatives and to each member of the congressional delegation from

