

State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

## **2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 55**

1	Relating to: recognizing June 19, 2017, as Juneteenth Day in Wisconsin.
2	Whereas, Juneteenth Day is a national holiday that celebrates the end of
3	slavery in the United States, and Juneteenth Day specifically commemorates June
4	19, 1865, the day that Union General Gordon Granger spoke in Galveston, Texas,
5	proclaiming free the last remaining slaves in the United States; and
6	Whereas, Union General Gordon Granger delivered this news to recognize the
7	freedom of these men, and this proclamation was given nearly two and one-half
8	years after the Emancipation Proclamation was declared; and
9	Whereas, slavery in the United States lasted over 250 years and enslaved
10	millions of African-Americans in horrific conditions throughout all regions in the
11	United States, including in Wisconsin, where hundreds of slaves were held illegally;
12	and
13	Whereas, Juneteenth Day is officially observed in 43 states across the country,
14	and Juneteenth Day has come to signify a celebration of African-American freedom,
15	achievement, and history; and

June 2, 2017 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, COWLES, HANSEN, LARSON, MILLER, RINGHAND, RISSER, ROTH, SHILLING, VINEHOUT and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives YOUNG, FIELDS, BOWEN, CROWLEY, ZAMARRIPA, ALLEN, BERCEAU, GOYKE, HEBL, HINTZ, KESSLER, KOOYENGA, MASON, MILROY, MURPHY, OHNSTAD, RIEMER, SARGENT, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, TUSLER, VRUWINK, WACHS, ZEPNICK and POPE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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1	Whereas, Juneteenth Day brings the African-American community and
2	persons of all races together in the fight for equality, and it is important as legislators
3	to promote solidarity in this effort; and
4	Whereas, Juneteenth Day is typically celebrated in ways such as public
5	readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, the singing of songs, and family
6	gatherings; and
7	Whereas, Juneteenth Day provides a time for a mature reflection on the history
8	of the institution of slavery in the United States and Wisconsin, provides an
9	opportunity to educate Americans about the history of slavery and emancipation,
10	and provides an occasion to celebrate the continuing advancement of
11	African–Americans and freedom in the United States; now, therefore, be it
12	<b>Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That</b> the legislature
13	hereby proclaims June 19, 2017, as Juneteenth Day in Wisconsin.
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(END)