

Resolution

In support of the **Annual WASHINGTON JUNETEENTH National Holiday Observance and National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign**

Whereas, for more than 143 years, **Juneteenth** National Freedom Day continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance in the United States. Also known as "Emancipation Day", "Emancipation Celebration", "Freedom Day", "Jun-Jun", "**Juneteenth** Independence Day" and "**Juneteenth**." **Juneteenth** National Freedom Day commemorates the survival, due to God given strength and determination, of African-Americans, who were first brought to this country stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month long journey across the Atlantic Ocean known as the "Middle Passage"; and

Whereas, approximately eleven and one-half million African-Americans survived the voyage to the New World, the number that died is likely greater, only to be subjected to whipping, castration, branding, rape, tearing apart of families and forced to submit to slavery for more than 200 years after arrival in the United States; and

Whereas, **Juneteenth** commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. For the first time, in over 130 years of the annual celebration, **Juneteenth** has finally been "*officially recognized*" as **Juneteenth Independence Day** in America by the President and Congress of the United States; and

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

Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions and countries-of-origin, share in a common love of and respect for "**freedom**", as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom through democratic institutions, by which the "**tenets-of-freedom**" are guaranteed and protected. The "**19th of June**" or **Juneteenth Independence Day**, along with the "**4th of July**", completes the "**cycle of freedom**" for America's Independence Day observances. "**Until All are Free, None are Free**" is an oft repeated maxim that can be used to highlight the significance of the end of the era of slavery in the United States; and

Whereas, the **National Juneteenth Observance Foundation** is sponsoring the premier celebration, concert, worship services and campaign to commemorate America's 2nd **Independence Day Observance**, the "**19th of June**", as one which completes the cycle of America's 18th century Independence Movement, initiated with the "**4th of July**", 1776 "**Declaration of Independence**" and to recognize this country's movement towards a "**One America**", advanced by a sincere dialogue of the realization of what **Juneteenth** historically means to all Americans, promoting racial healing, reconciliation, restoration and justice, through the **National Day of Reconciliation and Healing From the Legacy of Slavery** and the **National Juneteenth Black Holocaust "Maafa" Memorial Service**; and

Be It Resolved, that

_____ hereby adopts this resolution in support of the **National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign** and encourages participation of our members, families and communities in the **Annual WASHINGTON JUNETEENTH National Holiday Observance**, on the **National Mall, Lincoln Memorial and US Capital**, during the week of the "**19th of June**" in Washington, DC.

Passed this: _____ Day of _____, 2008
Seal



Attest: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Print Resolution, Sign and Mail To:

**The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 25000**

**Fax: 202-456-2461
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov**