

By: Dutton

H.C.R. No. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger
2 arrived in Galveston with federal troops to provide military
3 support for Reconstruction efforts and to enforce President Abraham
4 Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; that same day, General
5 Granger read publicly his General Order No. 3, which proclaimed
6 that all slaves were undeniably free from that date onward and that
7 there would be "an absolute equality of rights and rights of
8 property between former masters and slaves"; and

9 WHEREAS, The proclamation sought to break the physical chains
10 that bound slaves to their masters, but it could not sufficiently
11 address the mental shackles that prevented many former slaveowners
12 from truly accepting the freedom of former slaves; over time, the
13 racist ideology engendered by former slaveowners has remained
14 pervasive in American society; and

15 WHEREAS, Each year, the State of Texas observes Confederate
16 Heroes Day on January 19 to commemorate the lives of Confederate
17 President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee as well as
18 Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War; opponents of
19 the holiday have spoken out about the need to preserve history
20 without glorifying individuals who fought to keep slaves in
21 bondage; and

22 WHEREAS, Eliminating Confederate Heroes Day and creating
23 Confederate Freedom Day would symbolize the state's commitment to
24 the values of liberty and equality, and the new holiday would help

H.C.R. No. 36

1 to unite Texans in the fight against institutional racism and
2 discrimination; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
4 hereby express support for designating January 19 as Confederate
5 Freedom Day.