

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**H. C. R. No. 33**

**Representative Brent**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Boyd, Leland, Kent, Holmes, A., West, Sweeney, O'Brien, Blair, Boggs, Galonski, Skindell, Miller, J., Patterson, Crossman, Russo, Weinstein, Kelly, Miller, A., Smith, K., Lightbody, Sobecki, Hicks-Hudson, Lepore-Hagan, Crawley, Miranda, Clites, Rogers, Denson, Sheehy, Ingram, Sykes, Riedel, Upchurch, Brown, Cera, Robinson, Liston, Strahorn, Howse**

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**A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N**

To urge the United States Congress to pass and the 1  
President of the United States to sign legislation to 2  
designate June 19th as a national holiday, to be known 3  
as Juneteenth Independence Day, in recognition of June 4  
19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery 5  
reached enslaved people in the southwestern states. 6

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach the 7  
frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of 8  
Texas and the other southwestern states, until two months after 9  
Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, 10  
Virginia, and more than two and one-half years after President 11  
Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and 12

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major 13  
General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news 14  
that the Civil War had ended and that all the enslaved were 15

free; and 16

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved in the 17  
southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth 18  
Independence Day, as inspiration and encouragement for future 19  
generations; and 20

WHEREAS, African Americans from the southwest have 21  
continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day 22  
for more than 150 years; and 23

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in 24  
the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 45 states and the 25  
District of Columbia as a special day of observance in 26  
recognition of the emancipation of all enslaved people in the 27  
United States; and 28

WHEREAS, Section 5.2247 of the Revised Code designates the 29  
nineteenth day of June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and 30

WHEREAS, S. Res. 253 of the 116th Congress, designating 31  
June 19, 2019, as Juneteenth Independence Day, passed the United 32  
States Senate by unanimous consent on June 19, 2019; and 33

WHEREAS, Countless thousands are assembling and marching 34  
through the streets of this nation to shine a light on the 35  
racism and the racial inequity that is still present in the 36  
United States, and that is subjected daily upon Americans of 37  
African descent; and 38

WHEREAS, The image of the United States as a beacon and 39  
symbol of democracy and freedom to the world, wanes under the 40  
weight of its unfinished business; now therefore be it 41

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 42  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United 43  
States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign, 44  
legislation to declare the nineteenth day of June as a federal 45

holiday to be known as Juneteenth Independence Day; and be it 46  
further 47

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 48  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 49  
President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, 50  
the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of 51  
Representatives, the President of the United States, the members 52  
of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of 53  
Ohio. 54