

Senate Resolution 164

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, James of the 35th and Seay of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing "Juneteenth Celebration Day" in Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on
3 January 1, 1863, and General Lee surrendered in April, 1865, officially ending the United
4 States Civil War; and
- 5 WHEREAS, news of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of slavery did not reach
6 Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and California until June 19, 1865; and
- 7 WHEREAS, on that evening, thousands of former slaves flooded the streets in spontaneous
8 celebration, rejoicing in the news of their long awaited freedom; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the nineteenth day of June has been observed as "Juneteenth" to commemorate
10 the joyous events of June 19, 1865, and Juneteenth celebrations have occurred in states across
11 this great nation; and
- 12 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth" and similar Emancipation Day observances formally recognizing
13 the abolition of slavery are now officially observed in numerous states, Washington, D.C.,
14 and internationally in countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries of origin share
16 in a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as the determination to protect their
17 right to freedom through the democratic institutions by which the tenets of freedom are
18 guaranteed and protected; and
- 19 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately recognize
20 this glorious event marking the end of slavery and the beginning of freedom for so many who
21 had wrongfully suffered in this state and nation.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 hereby recognize “Juneteenth Celebration Day” in remembrance of those who received the
24 exultant news of their freedom and as a memorial to all those who suffered from the cruelties
25 of slavery, and encourage ceremonies, celebrations, and other activities to be held in their
26 honor.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the National Juneteenth Observance
29 Foundation.