

House Resolution 1591

By: Representative Efstration of the 104<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the 2020 Juneteenth Freedom Day Unity Celebration; 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, on June 19, 2020, the Juneteenth Freedom Day Unity Celebration will take  
16 place at Rabbit Hill Park in Dacula, Georgia, and will feature speakers, historical  
17 reenactments, music, vendors, and voter registration services; and

18 WHEREAS, a collaboration between several organizations, this celebration represents a time  
19 for our community to reunite in remembrance of this crucial moment in United States  
20 history; and

21 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately celebrate this  
22 glorious historical event marking the end of slavery and the beginning of freedom for so  
23 many who had wrongfully suffered in this state and nation.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
25 the members of this body support the 2020 Juneteenth Freedom Day Unity Celebration as  
26 a time to remember all those who received the exultant news of their freedom and as a  
27 memorial to all those who suffered from the cruelties of slavery.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
30 public and the press.