

House Resolution 1693

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Thomas of the 56th, and Gilliard of the 162nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring abolitionists, anti-slavery activists, and opponents of slavery; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the abominable institution of slavery reached British North America in 1619
4 and would be present in the United States until the passage and ratification of the Thirteenth
5 Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865, an act which freed more than four
6 million African Americans from slavery; and

7 WHEREAS, the long and arduous journey from enslavement to freedom was paved by the
8 sacrifices and efforts of the hundreds of American abolitionists, anti-slavery activists, and
9 opponents of slavery who fearlessly advocated for justice in the face of collective moral
10 venality; and

11 WHEREAS, the first major success of anti-slavery leaders was the prohibition of the African
12 slave trade in the United States in 1808, but their steady lobbying of state legislatures and the
13 United States Congress in ensuing decades would achieve limited success; and

14 WHEREAS, abolitionists were both African American and white, and their cooperation in
15 the abolitionist movement stands as one of the earliest examples of a unified social justice
16 movement in which Americans of different backgrounds stood together in pursuit of common
17 social and political reforms; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1833, the American Anti-Slavery Society was established, and its efforts to
19 spread abolitionist messages and organize anti-slavery efforts would gain in popularity over
20 time and, by the 1850s, more than 2,000 auxiliary branches of the organization would exist
21 with a membership reaching 250,000; and

22 WHEREAS, abolitionists were often highly educated men and women of intense religious
23 feelings and commitments; many were clergymen and elders of Protestant evangelical
24 churches who believed they were called by God to advocate for abolition; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the historic importance and enduring
26 moral example of abolitionists, anti-slavery activists, and opponents of slavery be
27 appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body honor the resounding legacy and outstanding contributions of
30 abolitionists, anti-slavery activists, and opponents of slavery in America.

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