

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____

By Senators Haley and Faust-Goudeau

A RESOLUTION recognizing the observance of an annual Juneteenth Day.

WHEREAS, The Kansas Senate acknowledged its support for Juneteenth Day in 2007 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, June 19th, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, is known in many places as "Juneteenth Day"; and

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States for more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

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

WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not have the same impact on Kansas because Kansas was established as and remained a "free" state; and

WHEREAS, Many African-Americans continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations, and for more than 140 years, Juneteenth Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, Although Juneteenth Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remain examples for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion or race: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Day, support the continued celebration of Juneteenth Day to provide an opportunity for

the people of the State of Kansas to learn more about the past, to better understand the experiences that have shaped the nation and encourage the people of the State of Kansas to observe Juneteenth Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Haley and one enrolled copy to Senator Faust-Goudeau.