

RESOLUTION NO. 53 of 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 19TH OF EACH YEAR AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN CADDO PARISH, IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE THAT HAS BECOME WIDELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the Confederacy effective January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, the news that slavery had officially ended and that the slaves were free throughout the land now known as the United States was neither announced nor enforced in the western former Confederate states such as Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas in particular, until two and a half years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation due to a low presence of the Union Army in those areas; and

WHEREAS, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to establish the Union Army's command over Texas, he announced to the people of Texas on June 19, 1865, the end of slavery and the freedom of the slaves; and

WHEREAS, the formerly enslaved people in Texas celebrated their freedom on June 19, 1865, and such celebrations gradually evolved into the official commemorative holiday which has become known as "Juneteenth", which continues to be celebrated throughout the United States today through festivities, ceremonies, food, and other cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as an extremely significant day of remembrance and acknowledgment of the history, freedom, culture, strength, perseverance, and achievement of the past, present, and future generations of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth holds an important place not only in African American history, but in United States history for all Americans to reflect on, learn about, and appreciate the struggles, triumphs, and continued growth of our nation as a whole;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has approved HB 554 of 2021 Regular Session and has been signed into law to declare the third Saturday in June, Juneteenth Day, as a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, this holiday was further recognized by the inclusion of the holiday in the time for sale of fireworks under Act 68 of 2015 authored by Rep. Burrell, who now serves on the Caddo Commission; and

WHEREAS, local communities throughout the United States, such as Caddo Parish, support the significance of Juneteenth and all that it symbolizes in the history and culture of African American people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that June 19th of each year is hereby established throughout Caddo Parish, as a day of commemoration which shall be known as "Juneteenth Independence Day."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator shall consider recognizing this holiday consistent with other annual official Parish Holidays and to submit proposal to revise the Parish personnel policies to establish this as a permanent holiday for parish employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date