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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day
3 when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston,
4 Texas and announced General Order No. 3, informing enslaved
5 African Americans that they were free, more than two years
6 after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

7 WHEREAS, Juneteenth stands as a powerful symbol of
8 freedom, resilience, perseverance, and hope, marking a
9 significant milestone in the long struggle to fulfill the
10 promise of liberty and justice for all Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, The contributions of African Americans have
12 enriched every aspect of American life, including government,
13 education, business, labor, science, military service, faith,
14 arts, and culture; and

15 WHEREAS, The observance of Juneteenth provides an
16 opportunity to reflect upon the painful legacy of slavery,
17 celebrate the achievements and contributions of African
18 Americans, and recommit ourselves to building a more just and
19 equitable society;; and

20 WHEREAS, Communities throughout Illinois and across the
21 nation commemorate Juneteenth through educational programs,

1 cultural celebrations, civic engagement, and acts of service
2 that honor the sacrifices and triumphs of those who fought for
3 freedom; and

4 WHEREAS, Preserving the history of Juneteenth and ensuring
5 that future generations understand both the struggles endured
6 and the progress achieved in the pursuit of equality is of the
7 utmost importance; and

8 WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as a reminder that freedom is
9 not merely a historical event but an ongoing responsibility
10 requiring vigilance, unity, and a commitment to opportunity
11 for all people; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we honor Juneteenth as
14 a celebration of freedom, acknowledge the enduring
15 contributions of African Americans to our State and nation,
16 and reaffirm our commitment to justice, equality, and
17 opportunity for all.