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LRB102 18715 MST 27231 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The City of Bloomington Human Relations Commission, in partnership with the McLean County Historical Society and the Bloomington/Normal Black History Project (BNBHP), will be hosting the 2021 Annual Juneteenth Celebration; and

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WHEREAS, This virtual event, known as Justice Delayed, will encompass a week of education, motivation, and celebration covering the racial history of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Bloomington-Normal held its first Juneteenth celebration in 1993; and

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WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the official ending of slavery in the United States when, on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were freed; and

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WHEREAS, The first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, gave his famous Emancipation Proclamation executive order just two years prior in 1863, which declared southern slaves to be free; and

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1           WHEREAS, The inhumane practice of slavery in the United  
2 States was finally brought to an end following the Civil War;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The practice of slavery is now widely condemned  
5 and recognized as evil, and courageous leaders such as  
6 President Lincoln are responsible for paving the way towards a  
7 future where all Americans are treated as equal regardless of  
8 skin color; and

9           WHEREAS, The rights guaranteed to all United States  
10 citizens were unjustly denied to people based on the color of  
11 their skin; and

12           WHEREAS, Many African American citizens were denied basic  
13 rights even after slavery was abolished, due to government  
14 mandated racial segregation; and

15           WHEREAS, This continued racial discrimination following  
16 the abolition of slavery spurred the rise of prominent,  
17 courageous, and influential civil rights leaders such as Dr.  
18 Martin Luther King Jr.; and

19           WHEREAS, Despite this history of racial injustice, the  
20 United States has made progress towards the goal of racial

1 equality; and

2 WHEREAS, The prominence of African American individuals in  
3 American life, such as Barack Obama, Clarence Thomas, and  
4 Condoleezza Rice, is evidence of how far America has come  
5 regarding racial equality; and

6 WHEREAS, The ending of slavery and racial segregation  
7 serves as a reminder that America is capable of change for the  
8 better; and

9 WHEREAS, America's racial progress towards achieving Dr.  
10 King's dream, where people are judged by the content of their  
11 character and not by the color of their skin, is a call for  
12 celebration and reflection upon American history; therefore,  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the week of  
16 June 14, 2021 as "Juneteenth Remembrance Week" in the State of  
17 Illinois, to be celebrated with the appropriate events and  
18 activities; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 presented to the City of Bloomington Human Relations  
21 Commission, the McLean County Historical Society, and the

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1 Bloomington/Normal Black History Project.