

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 10, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 64

**Introduced by Assembly Members Leonard, Vincent,
Washington, Wesson, and Wright**

(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Baugh~~)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baugh, Aanestad, Ackerman,
Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Baldwin, Bates, Battin, Bock,
Briggs, Calderon, Campbell, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo,
Correa, Cox, Cunneen, Davis, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh,
Florez, Frusetta, Gallegos, Granlund, Havice, Hertzberg,
House, Jackson, Kaloogian, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Leach,
Lempert, Longville, Lowenthal, Machado, Maddox,
Maldonado, Margett, Mazzoni, McClintock, Nakano,
Olberg, Oller, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan,
Pescetti, Reyes, Romero, Runner, Scott, Shelley, Soto,
Steinberg, Strickland, Strom-Martin, Thompson, Thomson,
Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Wayne, Wiggins, Wildman, and
Zettel)**

May 24, 1999

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to
Juneteenth, Emancipation Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 64, as amended, Leonard. Juneteenth, Emancipation
Day.

This measure would declare June 19 as Juneteenth
throughout the State of California, in honor of the 134th

anniversary of Juneteenth, or Emancipation Day. The measure also would urge all Californians to reflect on the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and California and on the positive impact that they continue to make on society.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, June 19, 1999, marks the 134th Anniversary
2 of Juneteenth, Emancipation Day; and

3 WHEREAS, The history of Juneteenth dates back to
4 June 19, 1865, when General Gordon Granger landed at
5 Galveston, Texas, with a regiment of Union Army soldiers
6 and read General Order No. 3, which began with the
7 following two memorable sentences: “The people of
8 Texas are informed that in accordance with a
9 Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all
10 slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights
11 and rights of property between former masters and
12 slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between
13 them becomes that between employer and hired labor.”;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Juneteenth, as emancipation day, spread
16 from Texas to the neighboring states of Louisiana,
17 Arkansas, and Oklahoma and has also appeared in
18 Alabama, Florida, and California where many African
19 American Texans migrated; and

20 WHEREAS, Large celebrations of June 19 began in
21 1866 and have continued regularly into the 20th Century;
22 African Americans treat this day like the Fourth of July
23 with celebrations that include prayer services, speakers,
24 readings from the emancipation proclamation, and food
25 and entertainment; and

26 WHEREAS, African Americans have played a major
27 role in the history of the United States and have enriched
28 society through their steadfast commitment to promoting
29 brotherhood, equality, and justice; and

30 WHEREAS, From the earliest days of the United States,
31 the course of its history has been influenced greatly by
32 African Americans in many diverse areas, from science,



1 medicine, business, and education to government,
2 industry, law, and military and social leadership; and

3 WHEREAS, History books of United States history note
4 prominently many of the gallant and accomplished
5 African Americans who have played a major role in
6 American history, including Booker T. Washington,
7 George Washington Carver, Mary McCleod Bethune,
8 Harriet Tubman, Daniel Hale Williams, Fannie Lou
9 Hamer, General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. of the Tuskegee
10 Airmen, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall,
11 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Congressman Oscar De
12 Priest, to name a few; and

13 WHEREAS, A growing number of American and
14 African American cultural institutions, including the
15 Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American
16 History in Washington, D.C., the Chicago Historical
17 Society, the Black Archives of Mid-America Inc. in Kansas
18 City, Missouri, the Los Angeles Cultural Center, the
19 Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village in Detroit, and
20 the Museum of African-American Life and Culture in
21 Dallas, have sponsored Juneteenth-based cultural events
22 designed to share knowledge of this celebration with all
23 Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations are a tribute to
25 those African Americans who fought so long and worked
26 so hard to make the dream of equality a reality; now,
27 therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
29 *Senate thereof concurring,* That June 19 is hereby
30 declared permanently as Juneteenth throughout the
31 State of California; and be it further

32 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges all Californians to
33 take this opportunity to reflect on the significant role that
34 African Americans have played in the history of the
35 United States, and California in particular, and on the
36 positive impact that African Americans continue to make
37 on society; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
39 transmit copies of this resolution to the State Library, the



- 1 State Archives, the State Department of Education, and
- 2 the author for appropriate distribution.

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