

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN***  
**RESOLUTIONS**

<b>Resolution No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Intro</b>	<b>Date of Presentation</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Date Referred</b>	<b>Referred to</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING DATE</b>	<b>DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
432-37 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton	Relative to recognizing the observance of “Juneteenth National Independence Day” on June 19, 2024; and commending the Black community for protecting and preserving Black history and culture as an indelible part of our national story.	6/20/24 2:25 p.m.	6/26/24 12:15 p.m.						

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2024 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 432-37 (COR)**

Introduced by: Amanda L. Shelton 

**Relative to recognizing the observance of “Juneteenth National Independence Day” on June 19, 2024; and commending the Black community for protecting and preserving Black history and culture as an indelible part of our national story.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**  
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is a celebration of the date June 19, 1865, when people  
4 who were enslaved in Texas were informed that the U.S. government had officially  
5 outlawed the brutal practice of slavery, three year prior with the issuance of the  
6 Emancipation Proclamation; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation issued on January 1, 1863,  
8 declared that the people who were enslaved in Confederate-controlled areas were  
9 officially free people (state action was used to abolish slavery in areas controlled by  
10 Union forces with the exceptions of Kentucky and Delaware where slavery was finally  
11 ended by the Thirteenth Amendment in December 1865); and

12 **WHEREAS**, isolated from both Union and d Confederate forces during the Civil  
13 War, Texas had become a refuge for those who wished to continue the practice of  
14 holding human beings as property; and

1           **WHEREAS**, since the capture of New Orleans in 1862, people who held human  
2 beings as property in Mississippi, Louisiana and other points east had been migrating  
3 to Texas to escape the Union Army’s reach and more than 150,000 people held in  
4 bondage had been moved to Texas; and the White people of Texas actively worked to  
5 ensure that the people held in bondage who should have been freed in 1863, did not  
6 hear of the freedom granted by the Emancipation Proclamation; and

7           **WHEREAS**, although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1,  
8 1863, there were still a total of 250,000 people held as human chattel in Texas when  
9 U.S. Army general Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and on June 19, 1865—  
10 Juneteenth—proclaimed the war had ended and so had the captivity of people who had  
11 been enslaved; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the following is the text of the official recorded version of the order:  
13 “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the  
14 Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of  
15 personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the  
16 connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired  
17 labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for  
18 wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and  
19 that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”; and

20           **WHEREAS**, although news of emancipation came at different times during that  
21 Texas summer and autumn 1865, African Americans in Texas started to celebrate the  
22 freedom of enslaved persons on June 19 (Juneteenth) as their day of celebration; and

23           **WHEREAS**, beginning in 1866, they held parades, barbecues, and gave  
24 speeches in remembrance of their liberation. The oldest of the surviving formerly  
25 enslaved people were often given a place of honor and Black Texans initially used these  
26 gatherings to attempt to locate family members from whom they had been separated

1 and soon these events became staging areas for family reunions and an opportunity to  
2 uplift each other as they moved through hostile environments; and

3 **WHEREAS**, by 1900, Juneteenth had unofficially become Texas Emancipation  
4 Day and was sponsored by black churches and civic organizations; and

5 **WHEREAS**, with the migration of African Americans from Texas to the West  
6 Coast, especially during World War II, Juneteenth grew in the emerging black  
7 communities of Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oakland in California; Portland, Oregon;  
8 and Seattle, Washington; and

9 **WHEREAS**, activists in the 1980s began to advocate for wider recognition of  
10 the Juneteenth Holiday; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth a state holiday; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. All 50 states  
13 and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or observance, and at  
14 least 28 states and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth as a permanent  
15 paid and/or legal holiday through legislation or executive action; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of  
17 the ending of slavery in the United States; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution  
19 passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified by the required 27 of the then 36  
20 states on December 6, 1865, and proclaimed on December 18, 1865 abolished slavery  
21 and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime; and

22 **WHEREAS**, we recognize that while the Emancipation Proclamation and the  
23 13th amendment may have officially ended the legal practice of enslaving human beings  
24 in the United States of America, one hundred and fifty-nine years later, there is still  
25 progress which must be made to dismantle the insidious systems and practices which

1 continue to harm Black people and deny them access to the rights and resources to  
2 which they are entitled; now, therefore be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*  
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people  
5 of Guam, recognize the observance of “Juneteenth National Independence Day” on June  
6 19, 2024; and commend the Black community for protecting and preserving African  
7 American history and culture as an indelible part of our national story.; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
9 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
10 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Black Community of Guam; and to the  
11 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE \_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF 2024.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**CHRIS BARNETT**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary