

1 [Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation]

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3 **Resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation**
4 **Proclamation.**

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6 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation,
7 issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863; and

8 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation, one of the most influential documents in
9 American history declared "that all persons held as slaves" within Confederate territory "are,
10 and henceforward shall [forever] be free"; and

11 WHEREAS, After three years of a violent Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation
12 called for and facilitated the freedom of over four million enslaved African Americans under
13 the Confederacy; and

14 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation required the Union Army and Navy to
15 accept over 186,000 African American men into their ranks giving them an opportunity to
16 serve their country; and

17 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation ordered both the Union Army and the
18 Navy to emancipate all enslaved African Americans when taking control of any Confederate
19 territory; and

20 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation significantly affected the attitudes and
21 opinions that all Americans held about slavery and was instrumental in bringing an end to
22 nearly two and a half centuries of American slavery; and

23 WHEREAS, The Emancipation Proclamation was never challenged in court; and

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1 WHEREAS, As a result of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, slavery was
2 officially abolished in the United States with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in
3 1865; now therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the
5 Emancipation Proclamation, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the
6 immeasurable value that the Emancipation Proclamation had on American history and
7 particularly on the history of African Americans.

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