



**Meeting Date:** September 19, 2024

**Submitted By:** Dr. Paula Johnson  
**Title:** Assistant Superintendent

**Agenda Item:** Consider and take action regarding approving the Proclamation recognizing October 2024 as German American Heritage Month.

## CONSENT ITEM

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve the Proclamation recognizing October 2024 as German American Heritage Month.

### **IMPACT/RATIONALE:**

The purpose of German American Heritage Month is to increase recognition of the many historical, cultural, and social contributions German communities and leaders have made to the United States, Texas, and our community.

In 1683, 13 families from the German town of Krefeld landed in Philadelphia. These families subsequently founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first German settlement in the original 13 colonies. Though Germantown was absorbed into Philadelphia in 1854, the city played a significant role in American history; it was the birthplace of the American antislavery movement, a battle during the Revolutionary War, the temporary residence of George Washington, and the location of the first bank of the United States. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared October 6<sup>th</sup> as German American Day to commemorate the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States.

German Americans account for approximately one-third of the total population of people of German ancestry in the world. Today, more than 50 million Americans claim German ancestry – more than any other group except the British. German Americans have contributed greatly to our society and have heavily influenced American culture in the areas of manufacturing, education, architecture, the arts, and cuisine.

October is recognized as German American Heritage Month to urge our community to participate in ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the rich traditions and contemporary culture of German Americans.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

**Approval/Disapproval**



## German American Heritage Month Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** October 2024 has been designated as German American Heritage Month by the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States has advanced significantly under the influences of the history and culture of German Americans; and

**WHEREAS:** The contributions of German Americans have enhanced manufacturing, education, architecture, art, and cuisine in America for centuries; and

**WHEREAS:** Their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States, Texas, and our community; and

**WHEREAS:** President Ronald Reagan declared October as German American Heritage Month in 1983 to commemorate the first German settlement established in Philadelphia in 1683.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Suzanne Kenoyer, by virtue of the authority vested in me as School Board President of the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim October 2024, as German American Heritage Month, and encourage our community and all our citizens to observe this with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Judson Independent School District to be affixed this 19th day of September, the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

---

**Suzanne Kenoyer, President**

---

**Laura Stanford, Secretary**

