

The Juneteenth Proclamation

Whereas Juneteenth represents the first day of celebrating freedom in America for all Americans and the last known celebration for the ending of slavery...

Whereas one of our country forefather's Thomas Jefferson declared, July 4th, 1776 the date America was conceived in liberty with truth's being self evident...

Whereas the Emancipation Proclamation was enacted and took effect January 1, 1863 and on November 19, 1863 during his Gettysburg address, President Abraham Lincoln announced that this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom...

Whereas on June 19th, 1865 America with its former slaves celebrated this new birth of freedom naming it Juneteenth...

Whereas for ninety-nine years African-Americans nurtured this infant of freedom called Juneteenth, while serving in America's wars and conflicts, exemplifying courage, patriotism and exhibiting patience with grace in the face of draconian laws and severe inequality...

Whereas the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were appropriated but not applied with fairness to all Americans as a whole, but the celebration of Juneteenth continued regardless...

Whereas for ninety-nine years after the birth of Juneteenth, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and thereafter the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to guarantee all Americans, inalienable rights...

Whereas over the course of time and through many trials from American culture emerged Juneteenth; liberation events flourished across the nation inspiring its citizens to honor their freedom, through music, storytelling, education, ceremonies and celebrations...

Whereas in 1997 through the leadership of Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D., Founder, President and CEO of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF), and Lula Briggs Galloway, President of the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage (NAJL), congress officially passed legislation recognizing Juneteenth as Juneteenth Independence Day...

Whereas on August of 1998 the first National Juneteenth Convention & Expo was convened bringing Juneteenth events together coast to coast, hosted by Juneteenth America (JAI) under the leadership of John H. Thompson, Sr., and the NJOF in Ontario, California that ignited and galvanized a national Juneteenth movement, under the banner of, "Perfecting Unity"...

Whereas as of 2018, 46 states and the District of Columbia have acknowledged Juneteenth as a day of observance (holiday only in Texas) to be recognized as necessary for Freedom to be cemented in the American consciousness, and the world...

Therefore, the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF) requests that Juneteenth be observed as Juneteenth National Freedom Day and that it be celebrated on the third Saturday of June and that our resolve is, "the blessing of liberty".

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