

# Happy Juneteenth!

Every June 19th, the United States commemorates Juneteenth, a pivotal day marking the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Known also as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, this federal holiday celebrates when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, announcing the end of slavery. The name "Juneteenth" combines "June" and "nineteenth," the date of this historic announcement. Although the Emancipation Proclamation had declared all enslaved people in Confederate states free on January 1, 1863, it took two and a half years for the news to reach Texas due to the Civil War. Juneteenth symbolizes the resilience and determination of African Americans in their quest for liberty. By honoring Juneteenth, we reaffirm our commitment to acknowledging the past, celebrating the present, and striving for a more inclusive future where freedom and equality are truly universal.

