

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free"; and

WHEREAS, celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater opportunity; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 19, 2020, as

Juneteenth

In the state of Washington and urge all citizens to become aware of the significance of this celebration in American History and in the heritage of our nation and state.

Signed this 6th day of June, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

