

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, the 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 the role played by the ancestors of Black Americans in this nation's continual quest for freedom for all of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth honors the contribution of Black Americans in the building of the nation; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, the 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; and

WHEREAS, the Washington state legislature passed legislation in 2021 that makes Juneteenth a legal state holiday; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, Congress passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing June 19th as the 12th U.S. public legal holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2022, as

Juneteenth

in the state of Washington, and I urge all people in our state to become aware of the significance of this celebration in the heritage of our nation and state.

Signed this 1st day of June, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee

