

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, During the Civil War, over 200,000 African Americans fought bravely in the Union armed forces to secure their freedom from slavery and preserve this Union, and many sacrificed their lives for the ultimate freedom of their families; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day celebrates the events of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, to bring news that the Civil War had ended and to read General Order #3 which stated that in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation all enslaved African American people were free and entitled to absolute equality of personal and property rights; and
- WHEREAS, Following the statement – which unjustly and unconscionably came two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, leaving African Americans enslaved even though President Lincoln had freed them – June 19th became the emancipation date of enslaved African Americans who had long suffered and fought for freedom, justice and equality; and
- WHEREAS, Throughout America, Juneteenth celebrations are convened on June 19th to celebrate African American history, journey and culture; and
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and courage of African Americans, the contributions of African Americans to the building of American institutions, wealth and innovations, and their ultimate triumph over extreme adversity through sheer determination and overwhelming tenacity; and
- WHEREAS, Kentuckians must continue to work toward a more equitable and just Commonwealth, while recognizing the horrors of slavery and its legacy; and
- WHEREAS, Recognition of Juneteenth reflects the Commonwealth's resounding belief in liberty and equality for every citizen;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020, as

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 18th day of June, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty and in the 229th year of the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Beshear".

ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Adams".

Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State

