



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation stating that "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free;" and

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

WHEREAS, it would take over two years after its signing and the end of the Civil War for it to be fully enforced; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, TX to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Lincoln stating slaves had been freed; and

WHEREAS, from those dates forward, June 19, would become known as "Juneteenth," the oldest known public celebration commemorating the anniversary of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this historic holiday would not be possible without the sacrifice of all slaves who fought for their freedom and all the individuals of ethnic backgrounds who used their freedom to fight to end slavery; and

WHEREAS, Alabama became the 40th state to recognize Juneteenth through the passage of legislation sponsored by State Sen. Hank Sanders in 2012; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 1997 was first recognized by Congress as Juneteenth Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, we must continue to celebrate the strength and determination of African Americans while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

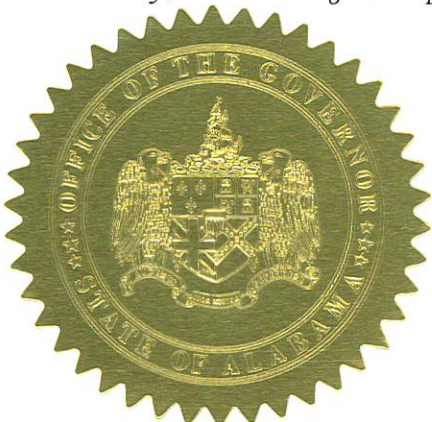
WHEREAS, may this day remind us of the promise of freedom and equality; rights that are core to the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth shall be observed as a pivotal Emancipation Day and as a remembrance of the long march toward equality, as well as to acknowledge contributions of African Americans to the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

Juneteenth Day

in the state of Alabama to recognize the painful origins of this significant day and to promote healing and unity.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 10th day of June 2021.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor