

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 of America; and

WHEREAS, ending slavery was a critical milestone, but it persisted in southern states for an additional two years after the Emancipation Proclamation – until June 19, 1865, when federal troops entered the state of Texas and freed the last 250,000 slaves still in bondage; and

WHEREAS, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is the oldest known public celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States, honoring the unforgettable legacy of resistance, spirit and notable contributions of the African Black Diaspora in the building of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a celebration of community and the perseverance of African Americans, it also signifies the continual and universal quest for equality, equity, opportunity, unity, and freedom within every generation, and for the sake of our country, offers an occasion to better understand inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, in Washington state, Juneteenth was recognized as a Day of Remembrance before becoming a legal holiday in 2021, and that same year, the U.S. 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, 2024, as

Juneteenth

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 22nd day of May, 2024

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

Governor Jay Inslee

