



State

of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2002, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack signed legislation establishing Juneteenth as a state holiday in Iowa. That holiday is now known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as

JUNETEENTH DAY

in Iowa, and urge citizens to engage in community events surrounding this important observance.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 18th DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.

Kim Reynolds
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

Paul D. Pate
PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE