



# JUNETEENTH

The Oldest Nationally Celebrated  
Commemoration of the end of  
Slavery in the United States

# THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

- On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that all the enslaved were now free
- Enslaved people in rebellious states were freed January 1, 1863, however the enslaved people of Galveston did not find out they were free until that day in June two and a half years later
- The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops that had been able to reach Texas to enforce the new Executive Order.
- After the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.
- This began the long road to establishing the previously non-existent status of Black people in The United States of America

# CURRENT CELEBRATIONS

- The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth"
- The Juneteenth celebration is a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members.
- Though Juneteenth continues to be highly revered in Texas to this day, with descendants making a pilgrimage to Galveston, the celebration has expanded to other cities in Texas and to other states
- Third Ward in Houston, Texas has celebrated Juneteenth at Emancipation Park every year since 1872. The four-acre park was purchased by four Black Houstonians; Richard Allen, Richard Brock, Jack Yates, and Elias Dibble for \$800; for the sole purpose of commemorating this day



Juneteenth Celebration Emancipation Park 2019  
Source- Houston Chronicle

Why is Juneteenth  
so important today?

# THE IMPORTANCE OF JUNETEENTH

- From the election in 2016 to the innumerable cases of police brutality and the rise in public support of hate groups such as the KKK, Neo-Nazi groups and White Supremacist organizations, the African American community has been waiting for the recognition of equality in the eyes of a country that still is unable to grapple with its legacy of slavery
- Juneteenth has never been federally recognized
- American companies are beginning to recognize the importance of this day not only for their employees but for the implication of their support for the Black community in this current and sustained unequal society

What can you do  
this **Juneteenth** to  
make a difference?

Regardless of your race and regardless of your nationality, Juneteenth is a day to love and to be thankful for our families and to acknowledge where we have been and how far we have come but also how much further we have to go.

The first step to making the lasting change that is needed in the fight for equality is for every single person to sit with their beliefs and their biases and take an honest stock of how their intrinsic thoughts and actions impact the lives of those around them PARTICULARLY those who are historically and systematically oppressed.

As a note; #BlackLivesMatter does not mean Black lives are the only lives that matter it means that for 246 years these lives were dehumanized, abused and murdered under slavery. For almost 100 more years they were marginalized under Jim Crow laws. Since the first Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's through today the Black community is still asking for the rights that are inalienable to everyone except them.

# THANK YOU.

Celebrate #Juneteenth #blacklivesmatter

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