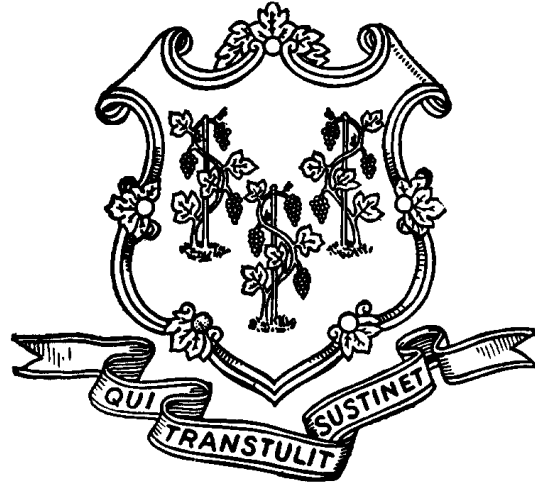


State of



Connecticut

By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: a
PROCLAMATION

African Americans enslaved in Galveston, Texas first learned of their freedom on June 19, 1865, two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln became effective.

Since that time, June 19th has become known as “Juneteenth,” and is recognized as the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.

Since 1865, the observance of June 19th as Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Juneteenth not only commemorates African American freedom, but it also emphasizes education, self-improvement and the myriad achievements of the African American community. It is marked with public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation and celebrations with family and friends.

Throughout the State of Connecticut, many organizations will host Juneteenth Celebrations, including parades and cultural activities with entertainment and food.

Here in Connecticut, we have worked to attempt to correct the wrongs of the past in working with the General Assembly on policies aimed at bringing equity to all of our communities.

Slavery is a stain on the American conscience, and it is incumbent upon all of us to learn from the past, listen to our neighbors, and work to forge a better and more just future for our children and grandchildren.

I also applaud the 117th Congress of the United States of America for voting in a bipartisan fashion to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday, allowing all across our country to recognize the significance and history of this day.

I would also like to thank President Biden for signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

THEREFORE, in recognition of the 156th anniversary of the emancipation of all people who were enslaved in the United States of America, and in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut, I hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, to be

JUNETEENTH DAY

in the State of Connecticut and encourage all our citizens to recognize the many significant contributions of Connecticut’s African American community but also to reflect on Connecticut’s incomplete journey toward racial equity.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, nineteenth day of June, two thousand and twenty-one and of the independence of the United States the two hundred forty-fourth.



Ned Lamont
by His Excellency's Command

Denise W. Henth
Secretary of the State