

Help Make Juneteenth a National Day of Observance



Juneteenth is now recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in 43 states and the District of Columbia. Texas, of course, was the first state in 1980.

ONLY 7 STATES REMAIN

Tell your U.S. Senators and Congressmen to support the passage of legislation similar to Sen. Kay Baily Hutchinson's S.J.R. 45 in 2012 to make Juneteenth a National Day of Observance like Flag Day or Patriot Day. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or 202-456-1111 and ask President Obama to support efforts to have a National Day of Observance. Let's hope he does it before he leaves office.

Join the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign
www.juneteenth.us

Join our weekly Saturday, 12 noon CST National Juneteenth Conference Call
712-775-7031 access code: 716698222#

We Need Your Help To
Make This Year
The Best Yet!

Join Us As A Volunteer,
Sponsor, Vendor or
Participant

There Is Much To Do!



Juneteenthftw.com
unityunlimited@hotmail.com

Unity Unlimited, Inc.
2119 Harrison Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76110
682-738-6055

501c3 non-profit organization

FORT WORTH

*None Of Us Are Free
Until We're All Free*



JUNETEENTH

June 17-19, 2016

The History of Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. 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. This was nearly two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which became official January 1, 1863.

The Juneteenth celebration was set aside as a time for reassuring each other, praying for one another and seeking any missing family members. Juneteenth continued to be well-regarded holiday in Texas decades later. The celebration has always focused on education and self-improvement. Guest speakers are often brought in and the elders are called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services are also a major part of the celebrations.

Juneteenth celebrations declined in the early 1900's. Classroom text books proclaimed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the ending of slavery - and little or nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival on June 19th. The Depression forced many people off the farms and into the cities to find work. Thus, unless June 19th fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available.

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's brought a resurgence of Juneteenth celebrations. Many youth linked the struggle for racial equality to the historical struggles of their ancestors. On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday, the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition.

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying phenomenal growth with 43 states recognizing it as an official state holiday. It celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. 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.

Excerpts taken from Juneteenth.com

TEXAS IS 1ST AGAIN

with the adoption of an official license plate to be available December 2015



*"The creation of the Juneteenth license plate will provide us the opportunity to openly display our respect and appreciation for our collectively diverse legacy on Texas roads and highways."
-Rep. Nicole Collier, District 95*

For only \$30 in addition to your car registration, you can own a piece of history. Starting in December 2015 you can purchase the plates at your local county tax assessor-collector office OR online at www.txdmv.gov

Your specialty plate will be available for pickup within 3 weeks or mailed to your home.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT ALL YEAR LONG!

Get updates on Facebook & Twitter & www.juneteenthftw.com

2016 JUNETEENTH EVENTS

CELEBRATE



FREEDOM

All plans are tentative and subject to change

**Breakfast of Prayer
City of Fort Worth Commemorative Celebration in Chambers
"The Empowering You Event"
Juneteenth Parade
Juneteenth Festival in Cobb Park
5K Run/Walk in Cobb Park
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
Music/Entertainment
BBQ Cookoff
Carshow
Food Vendors, Trade Vendors
Souvenirs
Children's area
Midway / Rides (Carnival)
Miss. Juneteenth Pageant
African American Film Festival
Clergy Appreciation Concert & Gospelfest**

**GET THE LATEST SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.JUNETEENTHFTW.COM**