

# State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
PROCLAMATION NUMBER 79 JBE 2020

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## *JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE DAY*

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**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth National Freedom Day celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and that the Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves to be free;

**WHEREAS,** in 2003, the Louisiana Legislature took the meaningful step of enacting Louisiana Revised Statute 1:58.2, designating the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day, the oldest African American holiday, throughout Louisiana;

**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is a day of learning, sharing and honoring the history, culture and achievements of African Americans across the state and nation in areas including education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics, sports, civil and human rights;

**WHEREAS,** honoring Juneteenth reflects our belief and commitment to liberty, equity, and justice for every African American; it is also a day for everyone to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the experiences of African Americans;

**WHEREAS,** to date, 47 states in the nation have designated Juneteenth a holiday or a special day of recognition; and

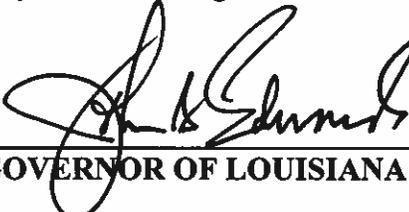
**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth honors the significant contributions and advances made by African Americans in our state, across our nation and throughout the world, and commemorates the strength and resolve of African- Americans throughout their history.

**NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 1:58.2, Saturday, June 20, 2020 shall be a special day of celebration for the freedom of African Americans and is recognized and designated as Juneteenth Day.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

  
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GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA