



**John Bel Edwards**

**GOVERNOR**

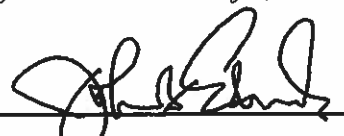
**Proclamation**

- 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 those enslaved to be freed; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1997, during the 105th United States Congress, House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution 11 were passed, officially recognizing Juneteenth as the Independence Day Observance of Americans of African descent; and
- 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; and
- WHEREAS,** honoring Juneteenth reflects 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; and
- WHEREAS,** to date, 47 states in the nation, including Louisiana, have designated Juneteenth a holiday or a special day of recognition and in honor of the rich history and contributions of African Americans to our state and country; 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; and
- WHEREAS,** Gov. John Bel Edwards signed House Bill 554 by (D) Rep. Larry Selders on June 10, 2021 enacting this celebration and day of recognition into state law making it a permanent state holiday in Louisiana.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** **I, John Bel Edwards,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as

**JUNETEENTH DAY**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of June A. D., 2021.*

  
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Governor of Louisiana