



**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 slaves to be free; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2003, the Louisiana Legislature took the meaningful step of recognizing in statute (RS 1:58.2) the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Day, the oldest African American holiday, throughout Louisiana; 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 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; and
- 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, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as

**JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE 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., 2020.*

*John Bel Edwards*  
Governor of Louisiana