



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, enslaved men and women received word of General Order Number 3 proclaiming to the people of Texas “that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”; and

WHEREAS, the African American men and women of Texas were kept in bondage for over two years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation went into effect and had not yet been granted their God-given freedom; and

WHEREAS, churches and faith communities began hosting Juneteenth celebrations to commemorate freedom for African-Americans who had been enslaved; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee was the first state among the states who seceded from the Union during the Civil War to end slavery by law prior to the final ratification of the 13th amendment; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth provides us with an opportunity to recount and remember that freedom has not always extended to every life in America; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth Celebrations across Tennessee serve to commemorate an end to enslavement and honor the heritage and memory of those kept from freedom for so long; and

WHEREAS, every day is an opportunity to strive to more fully realize the ideals of our nation and ensure that the promise of a free and just society is guaranteed for every Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, we humbly recognize each and every human being is made in the image of God;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as

Juneteenth Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of June, 2020.



Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State