



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 been 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; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the State of Tennessee, with the partnership of the General Assembly, officially recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, 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 sixteenth day of June, 2023.



*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Justin Smith*

Secretary of State