

# Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

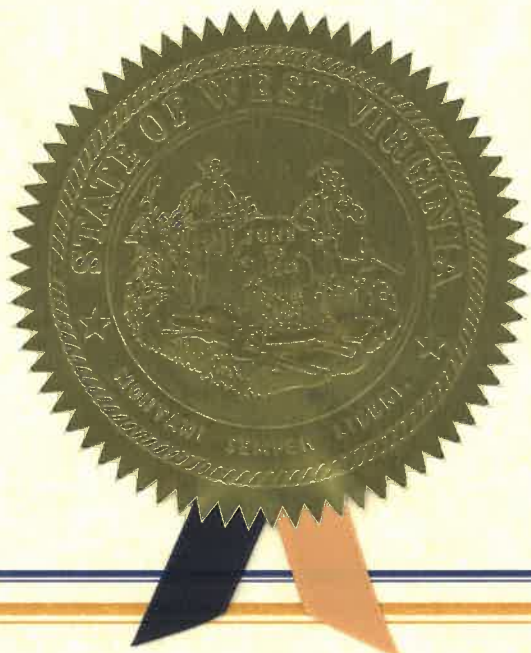
- Whereas,** Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is celebrated each year on June 19 in the United States to commemorate the end of slavery; and
- Whereas,** President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day in 1863, which ordered the freeing of all slaves in states that were rebelling against Union forces; and
- Whereas,** the Emancipation Proclamation had little effect in Texas, where there were few Union troops to enforce the order; and
- Whereas,** the message of freedom finally reached African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger, backed by nearly 2,000 troops, arrived in the city of Galveston and made the announcement; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia recognizes Juneteenth as the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia embraces continuous self-development and respect for all cultures and encourages appreciation for all our differences grown out of exposure and working together; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia recognizes getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us.
- Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *June 19, 2020* as:


## Juneteenth Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Nineteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Seventh year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State