

Commemorates the  
end of slavery  
in the United states.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued  
the Emancipation Proclamation,  
during the American Civil War,  
declaring more than three million  
slaves living in the confederate states  
to be free.

On June 19, 1865 -  
OVER 2 YEARS LATER -  
the news  
of the Emancipation Proclamation  
reached African Americans  
living in Texas. It was not until  
Union soldiers arrived in Galveston,  
TX on June 19, 1865 that the state's  
residents finally learned slavery  
had been abolished.

In 1866, June 19th was transformed  
from a day of unheeded  
military orders into an annual rite,  
"Juneteenth."

In 1980, Juneteenth became  
a state holiday in Texas,  
with a number of states  
following.

Celebrations include recognizing the end of slavery  
culture and achievements of African Americans  
include prayer and religious services, speeches,  
family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with

