

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 and culture and achievements of African Americans. Celebrations include prayer and religious services, speeches, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with

