

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

Whereas, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is recognized 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, pre-dating the national ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, West Virginia had, on February 3, 1865, already passed an act abolishing slavery in the State; 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 2000 troops, arrived in the city of Galveston and made the announcement; and

Whereas, the Great State of West Virginia recognizes Juneteenth as the oldest date commemorating the end of slavery.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *June 19, 2026*, as:

Juneteenth Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in 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 Eighteenth Day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State