



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

## A PROCLAMATION

### JUNETEENTH

- WHEREAS:** On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed on the shores of Galveston, Texas, to share the news that the Civil War had ended and all those enslaved in the South were now free. Although President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had been issued more than two years prior, Union troops had previously been unable to enforce the order fully; and
- WHEREAS:** As one of the oldest American holidays, Juneteenth commemorates formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants and has historically been a time of prayer, reflection, and family reunion; and
- WHEREAS:** Juneteenth also highlights the artistic and intellectual achievements collectively preserved through the pre/post middle passage, the slave trade, the emancipation era, and the civil rights movement, as well as more recent accomplishments of African American cultural expression; and
- WHEREAS:** Although Juneteenth celebration is specific to the emancipation of African descendants, its message promotes the continued freedom and economic prosperity of individuals from all races, colors, creeds, and cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** In recognizing the holiday of Juneteenth in the State of Georgia, we acknowledge the challenges, successes, tribulations, and perseverance of all those who lived during these periods in our history; and
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023, as JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Manon Kipertich*

CHIEF OF STAFF