



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State commemorates landmark events in ensuring freedom for all people of our country, and this year marks the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Juneteenth, when the official announcement was made in the State of Texas that slavery was abolished in the United States and that some quarter-million enslaved African Americans in the state were free; and

**Whereas**, the news of liberation came to Texas more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863; African Americans across the state were made aware of their right to freedom on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston with federal troops to read General Order No. 3 announcing the end of the Civil War and that all enslaved people were free, as well as to maintain a presence in Texas for the purpose of enforcement of emancipation among slave-owners throughout the state; and

**Whereas**, Juneteenth is a reminder of the brutality, the hardships, and the losses suffered by enslaved African Americans, their struggle for freedom from slavery, and we solemnly remember all those who endured slavery and its lasting impact, as well as those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the quest to abolish slavery; their stories convey among the most poignant and painful lessons from our nation's past and shameful part of our history; and

**Whereas**, the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the United States was certainly not the end of their fight and pursuit of equality, the right to vote, and other civil rights, and Juneteenth honors the perseverance and achievements of the African American community over the past 158 years, recognizing that these victories have opened doors of opportunity for successive generations of African Americans to realize success in all professions and areas of endeavor, and further strengthen our nation's social, cultural, and economic foundation; and

**Whereas**, as a democracy founded upon the principles of freedom, equality, and justice for all people, America observes Juneteenth, which was designated a federal holiday when President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the *Juneteenth National Independence Day Act* into law on June 17, 2021; and

**Whereas**, Juneteenth not only serves as a day to recognize the emancipation of African Americans, but provides an opportunity for self-reflection on the lasting systemic injustices that still exist within our society and that we must continue to work together to overcome; it is a day to reflect on and value the great contributions made by the African American community following their freedom in these United States, despite barriers and hardships they continue to face; and

**Whereas**, New York State is a champion of freedom and a leader in civil, social, and human rights, and we join in shared spirit to mark this important observance and honor its significance, as we express respect for African American communities through ceremonies celebrating the freedom they and all New Yorkers embrace and cherish;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2023 as

## JUNETEENTH

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth day  
of June in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor