

JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

June 19th

Juneteenth, or June 19, is not the most recognized holiday in the United States, but the Broward County Board of County Commissioners aims to change that.

Emancipation Proclamation

The first step on this nation's long overdue path to ending the practice of slavery was the Emancipation Proclamation, a presidential order which was signed by Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862 and took effect on January 1, 1863. It declared:

"All persons held as slaves within any State... shall be...forever free."

This important document marked the symbolic end of slavery.

13th Amendment

Slavery formally ended with passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on January 31, 1865. It declared:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Juneteenth

Few people realize that it wasn't until June 19, 1865 – more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation – that Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas and told enslaved African Americans there of their emancipation.

That day became known as Juneteenth, a day to celebrate freedom granted forever to those who, in their enslavement, played such a pivotal role in the history and building of this nation.

Juneteenth Celebration Day

Today, Juneteenth is recognized as a historic day in 47 states, including Florida. On January 26, 2021, Broward County Commissioners voted to make June 19 of each year Juneteenth Celebration Day and amend the Broward County Administrative Code to make Juneteenth a day of observance, celebration and education.