STATE of WISCONSIN

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared that “all persons held as slaves” within rebellious states “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free,” enabling Black Americans’ paid service in the Union Army and distinguishing the nature of the Civil War as a fight for freedom and morality; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation marked a shift in the direction of our country, toward liberty and prosperity, and in embrace of a United States that recognizes and fights for the equal rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, although the Emancipation Proclamation is regarded as one of the greatest documents in American history, it was limited in many ways, as slavery persisted in border states despite its issuance, as well as in parts of the Confederacy under Union control; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 1865, otherwise known as Juneteenth, as well as the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865, are recognized nationwide as events that marked the effective end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, remembering the injustices of our past is paramount to shaping a just and equitable future, and while Black Americans in the United States have gained legal equality in the past 157 years, there is still much progress to be had toward the felt reality of equity, both nationwide and in Wisconsin communities; and

WHEREAS, today, on the 157th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the state of Wisconsin renews its commitment to expanding access to opportunity for every Wisconsinite, regardless of their identity, background, zip code, or income level, enabling each individual the ability to embody their full and most vibrant potential, and ensuring every person is empowered to live a full, free, and prosperous life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim January 1, 2020, as the

157th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

the state of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 13th day of December 2019.

[Signature]
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS A. FOLLETTE
Secretary of State