

WHEREAS; on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS; due to the relative lack of Union troops available to enforce the 1863 proclamation in Texas and other formerly Confederate states, slavery had been effectively still legal in these areas prior to this declaration; and

WHEREAS; since 1865, June 19 has become known as Juneteenth Day, and is one of the oldest and most popular annual commemorations of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS; Juneteenth Day is formally recognized and celebrated in almost every U.S. state, as well as the District of Columbia, and legislation to recognize the day in Wisconsin was first introduced in 1987 by Senator Spencer Coggs and Representative Marcia Coggs; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin became the 32<sup>nd</sup> state to formally recognize Juneteenth Day in 2009 when Governor Jim Doyle signed Senator Coggs' Senate Bill 170 into law and, on June 19, 2020, the Juneteenth flag was raised over the Wisconsin State Capitol building for the first time in state history; and

WHEREAS; slavery was a legal institution that served as a tool of oppression, exploitation, and economic development in the United States for nearly 250 years, leading to significant racial disparities in wealth, status, and capital that are still widely felt to this day; and

WHEREAS; the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our country's modern history, and the continued recognition and celebration of Juneteenth Day provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to reflect on our collective past and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist in our culture and our institutions; and

WHEREAS; this Juneteenth Day, as we raise the Juneteenth flag above our State Capitol once again, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites of all backgrounds in celebrating the end of one of our country's most shameful institutions—while recognizing that there is still much work to be done to address its lasting impact—and in moving forward in solidarity and strength toward a more racially equitable and just society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as

## **JUNETEENTH DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State