STATE of WISCONSIN

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS Juneteenth Day is annually celebrated as one of the oldest and most popular commemorations of the end of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS on June 19, 1865, more than two and 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 prior to June 19, 1865, slavery was effectively still legal in Texas and other formerly Confederate states due to the relative lack of Union troops available to enforce the 1863 proclamation; and

WHEREAS slavery has long been a tool of oppression, exploitation, and economic development, and was a legal institution in the United States for nearly 250 years, leading to significant racial disparities in built wealth, status, and capital; and

WHEREAS the struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our country’s modern history, and the continued recognition and celebration of Juneteenth provides an opportunity to redraw these connections, reconcile with our past, and move forward toward continued progress in solidarity and strength; and

WHEREAS since 1865, June 19th has become known as “Juneteenth Day” and is formally recognized and celebrated in 45 states; and

WHEREAS today marks the 30th annual Juneteenth celebration in Madison, and the 11th year of annual observance in the state of Wisconsin, as Wisconsin became the 32nd state to formally recognize Juneteenth Day in 2009 when Governor Jim Doyle signed Senator Spencer Coggs’ Senate Bill 170 into law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2019, as

JUNETEENTH DAY

throughout 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 June 2019.

TONY EVeRS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State