

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY JUNE 19, 2026

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas, bringing news that the Civil War had ended and, as one of his first actions, read General Order #3, which stated that all slaves were free and that former masters and slaves have absolute equality of personal and property rights, announcing freedom to some of the last enslaved people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, following the issuance of General Order #3, June 19th, or Juneteenth, became the emancipation date of those long suffering under slavery and yearning for freedom and is now the oldest and most popular commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States, emphasizing education, achievement and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is celebrated nationwide on June 19th of each year with prayer services, readings of the Emancipation Proclamation and community celebrations to recognize the triumph of the human spirit over slavery and to commemorate the strength and resolve of Black Americans throughout our national history; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, during the 105th United States Congress, House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution 11 were passed, officially recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day, and in 2021 the 67th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota designated Juneteenth as a state holiday; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans possess a deep belief in the ideals of democracy and liberty, justice and equality for all citizens regardless of race, color or creed, and we all benefit from a greater understanding and appreciation of diverse lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, the recognition and celebration of Juneteenth provides an opportunity for all citizens to renew our shared commitment to equality, reconcile with our past and pursue progress for a stronger, more just democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
June 19, 2026, JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION DAY in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE