

Happy Juneteenth



Juneteenth is a celebration that holds deep meaning in American history. Every year on June 19, people across the country recognize the day when the last enslaved African Americans were finally told they were free. It was on this date in 1865 that Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that the Civil War was over and slavery had ended.

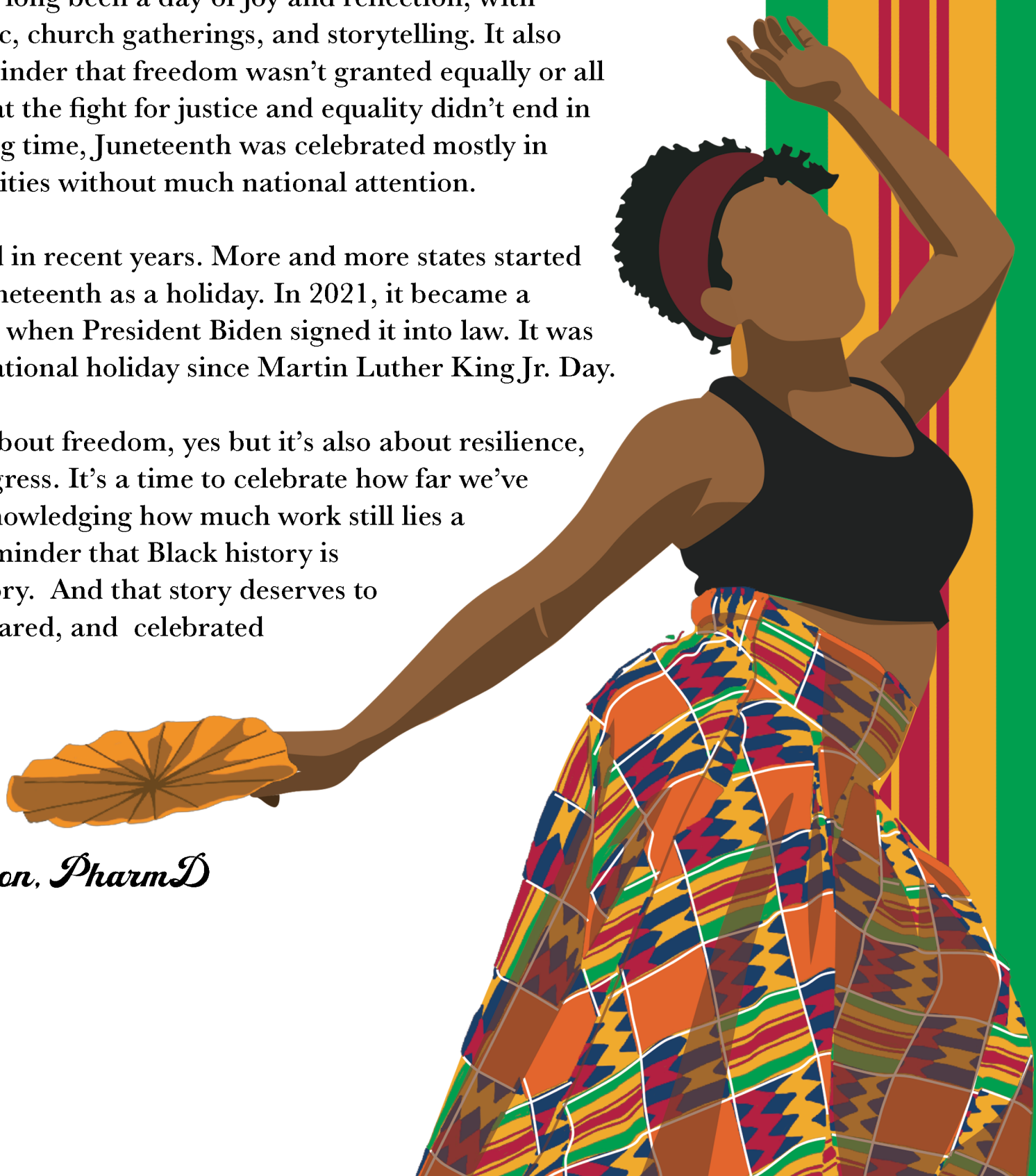
What makes this moment so significant is that the Emancipation Proclamation had already been issued by President Abraham Lincoln more than two years earlier, in 1863. But in many places, especially in Texas, that news had been ignored or delayed. Texas was one of the last strongholds of slavery, and freedom didn't truly reach everyone there until Granger made his announcement.

When the people of Galveston heard the news, celebrations broke out immediately. The following year, in 1866, the first official Juneteenth celebration took place in Texas. Since then, Juneteenth has grown into a yearly tradition in many communities across the country. As Black families moved to other states, they took the celebration with them, and it became a way to honor freedom, family, culture, and progress.

Juneteenth has long been a day of joy and reflection, with cookouts, music, church gatherings, and storytelling. It also serves as a reminder that freedom wasn't granted equally or all at once and that the fight for justice and equality didn't end in 1865. For a long time, Juneteenth was celebrated mostly in Black communities without much national attention.

That's changed in recent years. More and more states started recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday. In 2021, it became a federal holiday when President Biden signed it into law. It was the first new national holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Juneteenth is about freedom, yes but it's also about resilience, unity, and progress. It's a time to celebrate how far we've while also acknowledging how much work still lies a head. It's a reminder that Black history is American history. And that story deserves to be honored, shared, and celebrated by everyone.



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