



THE STATE OF TEXAS

GOVERNOR

 *To all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to all observing*

Jewish American Heritage Month

May 2023

Millennia ago, when America was but an uncharted wilderness, the Jewish nation emerged, and with it arose the timeless principles upon which Western civilization would be built: the rule of law and the dignity of the individual. In the centuries since the prophets and lawgivers walked the earth, societies the world over have modeled themselves after the Jewish people, whether explicitly or tacitly. Furthermore, archetypal Jewish narratives such as the exodus from Egypt have become deeply embedded into America's cultural imagination, and to this end, much of U.S. history—from abolitionism to women's suffrage and the civil rights movements—is framed in biblical terms that evoke the journey from bondage to the Promised Land.

In contemporary times, Jewish Americans have risen to the highest ranks in government, academia, industry, and the arts. Towering figures such as Milton Friedman, Jonas Salk, and Albert Einstein have indelibly etched their names into the annals of history, and creative giants such as Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Miller, and Steven Spielberg have made genre-defining contributions to American culture.

Each year, the month of May is set aside to shed light on the many and varied achievements of Jewish Americans past and present. The occasion, moreover, affords an opportunity to reflect upon the prejudice and persecution the Jewish people have faced throughout history as well as the providence that has preserved them through the ages.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the significant role that Jewish people have played in the larger story of America and her people. During this month and hereafter, we must celebrate our rich diversity, reinforce the bonds that unite us as one people, and recommit to the ideals of tolerance and equality.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in extending best wishes.



In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin this the 26th day of April, 2023.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas