

# STATE OF KANSAS



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Juneteenth represents the first day of celebrating freedom in the United States for all Americans and the last known celebration for the ending of enslavement; and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed enslaved peoples living in the Confederacy, was enacted and took effect on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, over two years later, on June 19, 1865, the news of this freedom finally reached enslaved people living in Galveston, Texas prompting the now freed people to celebrate, coining the day Emancipation Day, Jubilee, or Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, African Americans made significant sacrifices and contributions towards the pursuit of Liberty, Justice and Freedom in America. Having served in every military conflict in the history of the United States with courage and patriotism, despite unfair compensation and segregation.

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth persevered despite the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments being appropriated, but not applied fairly, to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the history of Kansas as a Free State emphasizes the value of justice, humanity and the rejection of bigotry and oppression; and

WHEREAS, ninety-nine years after the inception of Juneteenth, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and, thereafter, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to guarantee all Americans their inalienable rights; and

WHEREAS, throughout time and many perilous trials, Juneteenth events emerged throughout the United States inspiring African Americans to honor their freedom through storytelling, education, music, ceremonies and celebrations; and

WHEREAS, in the ongoing national dialogue of the meaning of freedom, Kansans remain committed to ensuring the value and dignity of all people; and

WHEREAS, the struggle for freedom and justice for all people must be continuously remembered and waged.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as

### Juneteenth Day

in Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of  
the State this 16<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, A.D. 2021

BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Laura Kelly*

*Scott Sch*

Secretary of State

*Sandy Tompkins*  
Assistant Secretary of State