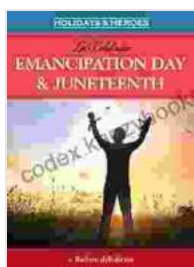


# Let's Celebrate Juneteenth: Honoring the Emancipation of African Americans

Juneteenth, a holiday commemorating the emancipation of African Americans, is a time for celebration, reflection, and education. This important holiday, observed on June 19th, marks the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in the Confederate states finally received the news of their freedom.

## The History of Juneteenth

The origins of Juneteenth can be traced back to the end of the Civil War. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all enslaved people in Confederate-held territory were free. However, it took nearly two and a half years for the news of this proclamation to reach enslaved people in Texas, the furthest state from Washington, D.C.



## Let's Celebrate Emancipation Day & Juneteenth (Holidays & Heros) by Don Lee

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 33301 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 30 pages



On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and read General Free Download No. 3, which officially announced

the end of slavery in the state. This day became known as Juneteenth, a combination of "June" and "nineteenth."

In the years that followed, Juneteenth became an important day for African Americans in Texas and other parts of the United States. It was a day for celebration, remembrance, and community building. Juneteenth was also a day for political activism, as African Americans used the holiday to advocate for their rights and demand equality.

## **The Traditions of Juneteenth**

Juneteenth is celebrated in many different ways, depending on the community. Some common traditions include:

- **Parades:** Juneteenth parades are a common sight in many cities and towns across the United States. These parades often feature floats, marching bands, and people dressed in traditional African clothing.
- **Barbecues:** Juneteenth is a time for family and friends to gather and enjoy a delicious barbecue. Ribs, chicken, and black-eyed peas are just a few of the popular dishes served at Juneteenth barbecues.
- **Music:** Music plays an important role in Juneteenth celebrations. Gospel music, blues, and R&B are just a few of the musical genres that can be heard at Juneteenth events.
- **Education:** Juneteenth is also a time for education. Many schools and community organizations hold events to teach people about the history of slavery and the importance of Juneteenth.

## **The Significance of Juneteenth**

Juneteenth is a holiday that has great significance for African Americans. It is a day to celebrate the end of slavery and to commemorate the struggle for freedom and equality. Juneteenth is also a day to reflect on the progress that has been made, and to continue to work towards a more just and equitable society.

Juneteenth has been recognized as a federal holiday since 2021. This is a significant step forward in the fight for racial justice, and it is a testament to the importance of this holiday.

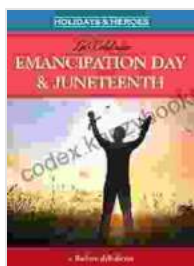
### **Heroes of Juneteenth**

There are many heroes who have fought for the freedom and equality of African Americans. Some of these heroes include:

- **Harriet Tubman:** Harriet Tubman was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to freedom. Tubman is estimated to have helped over 300 enslaved people escape to freedom.
- **Frederick Douglass:** Frederick Douglass was a former slave who became a leading abolitionist and orator. Douglass spoke out against slavery and racism, and he worked to promote the equality of African Americans.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.:** Martin Luther King, Jr. was a civil rights leader who fought for the equality of African Americans. King led nonviolent protests and marches, and he gave powerful speeches that inspired people all over the world.

These are just a few of the many heroes who have fought for the freedom and equality of African Americans. Their stories are a reminder of the importance of Juneteenth, and they inspire us to continue to fight for justice.

Juneteenth is a holiday that is steeped in history, tradition, and significance. It is a day to celebrate the end of slavery, to commemorate the struggle for freedom and equality, and to reflect on the progress that has been made. Juneteenth is also a day to honor the heroes who have fought for justice, and to continue to work towards a more just and equitable society.



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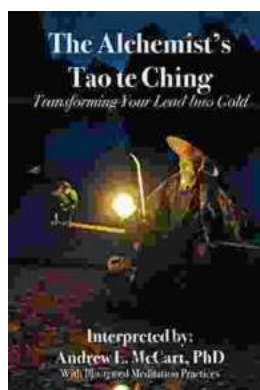
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