



Proclamation



JUNETEENTH 2019

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston Island, Texas with approximately 2000 troops; the Civil War had ended the previous month and these Union forces were tasked with taking control of Texas and enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, that same day, on the balcony of Ashton Villa, General Granger read his General Order Number 3 which stated, *“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor;”* and

WHEREAS, the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, but the slaves in Texas were unaware of it until being told by General Granger; reaction to the news ranged from jubilation to shock, and the freed slaves took to the streets to celebrate; and

WHEREAS, in the years that followed, June 19th was commemorated by the holiday of Juneteenth, combining the words June and nineteenth; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, and although Juneteenth is not a federal holiday, at least forty-five states recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday, resolution, or observance; and

WHEREAS, on August 23 2007, North Carolina approved Session Law 2007-450, “An Act Recognizing Juneteenth National Freedom Day in North Carolina.”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the observance and commemoration of **Juneteenth** on June 19, 2019 in the Town of Carrboro, and encourage residents to learn about, and celebrate, this historic occasion, to reflect on the freedom that we cherish, while acknowledging the on-going challenge of ensuring that all people share equally in this gift..

This, the 19th day of June, 2019



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor