



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, most citizens believe that the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 legally ended slavery; however, the proclamation only applied to states which seceded from the Union; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified in Nevada, February 16, 1865 and nationally on December, 1865, ending the institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, some slaves won freedom by joining the army when President Lincoln declared that any slave joining the Union Army would be given freedom; and

WHEREAS, others had escaped enslavement and migrated to states and territories outside of the Confederacy, including Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, is nationally recognized as the date when freedom was announced to some of the last slaves in America by General Gordon Granger, who arrived in Galveston, Texas and issued General Order Number Three, almost two and one-half years after President Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill in 1948 proclaiming February 1 "National Freedom Day" in honor of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, a first step in nationally commemorating the freeing of slaves and freedom for all; and

WHEREAS, for one hundred fifty (150) years, "Juneteenth Independence Day" continues to be the most recognized African-American holiday observance, also known as "Emancipation Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Freedom Day," "Jun-Jun," "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," and "Juneteenth"; and

WHEREAS, "Juneteenth Independence Day" commemorates the survival, due to God-given strength and determination, of Blacks through extreme adversity, hardship, and triumph; and

WHEREAS, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries of origin, share in a common love of and respect for freedom, as well as the determination to protect their right to freedom through the democratic institutions by which the tenets of freedom are guaranteed and protected; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2015, as

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 29th day of April, 2015.

By the Governor:

Governor

Barbara K. Leguizko
Secretary of State

By _____

Deputy