

The State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

A Proclamation

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty

JUNETEENTH DAY
JUNE 19, 2020

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, this news of freedom was two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed his historic Emancipation Proclamation, which became an official Executive Order on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire has a long history and involvement in the emancipation and abolishment of slavery. Notably, John P. Hale advocated for the abolition of slavery many years before the Civil War and our state was home to historic places like the James Wood Farm on the Croydon Turnpike in Lebanon that served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and Wood himself who was identified as the station keeper for New Hampshire's Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire, long before the enactment of President Lincoln's Executive Order, worked for the freedom of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1857 an act was passed stating that "no person, because of decent, should be disqualified from becoming a citizen of the state," and at the time there were no slaves listed in the U.S. Census for the State of New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **JUNE 19, 2020** as **NEW HAMPSHIRE JUNETEENTH DAY** in the State of New Hampshire and call this day to the attention of all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 4th day of June, 2020.



Chit T. Sununu

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor