

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** allowing the abhorrent practice of slavery, and its legacy, remains our nation’s greatest moral failure; and
- WHEREAS,** the 19th of June has great historical significance because it marks the release of many of the last enslaved people held under our nation’s brutal slavery system; and
- WHEREAS,** on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and nearly three months after the surrender of Confederate forces in Virginia, Union soldiers arrived in Texas to free the estimated 250,000 men, women and children who remained enslaved in the most remote former Confederate state; and
- WHEREAS,** every Vermonter and American should take time to reflect on the transformational impact the events of June 19, 1865 had on the men, women and children who were finally freed from slavery, and also on our progress as a nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermonters and Americans should mark Juneteenth with the same level of reflection, remembrance and celebration as all other national holidays celebrating freedom, liberty and human rights; and
- WHEREAS,** we must do more as a nation – in our communities, in our schools, in our places of worship, in our businesses and in our homes – to teach the significance of Juneteenth; and
- WHEREAS,** we must do more to openly acknowledge that the struggle for equality only began with the Civil War, and openly confront and eliminate the legacy of slavery – the significant racial inequality and systemic racism – that continues to exist in our country and our state today; and
- WHEREAS,** understanding the experience and perspective of other Americans and recognizing that those experiences are vastly different, and have not been equal or fair, helps us all become better neighbors, better citizens, and better human beings; and
- WHEREAS,** I call upon every freedom-loving Vermonter to celebrate this national holiday by recommitting to the work of finally achieving the equal rights, equal opportunity and equal justice for every American.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim June 19, 2020 as

JUNETEENTH RECOGNITION DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19th day of June, A.D. 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip B. Scott', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brittney L. Wilson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs