



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

2025 JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union Troops reached Galveston, Texas and informed the city's Black residents that slavery had ended with the declaration of the Emancipation Proclamation two-and-a-half years earlier.

Beginning as a local event, over the years Juneteenth festivities spread across the nation. In 2021 President Biden made the day an official Federal holiday – the first new Federal holiday since the creation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 1983.

Juneteenth honors the remarkable resilience of Black America and its cultural, historical, and social contributions to the life of the nation. It is also a potent reminder that much remains to be done before America truly provides equal rights for all of its citizens.

At a time when civil rights are increasingly under attack by reactionary forces, let us celebrate the virtues of freedom and self-determination. Ignorance and hatred are no match for love and knowledge.

I wish you all a joyous Juneteenth!

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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