



Action Alert

June 2022

From the Desk of NFDW President Gail Buckner

June 16, 2022

**JUNETEENTH:
OUR COUNTRY WILL CELEBRATE A NEW FEDERAL HOLIDAY ON JUNE 19, 2022**

Last year, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth a federal holiday, calling this act "one of the greatest honors" of his presidency. This is the first federal holiday to be created since Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday was declared a holiday in 1983.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration recognizing the day when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas learned they had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. June 19, 1865, was the day when Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger and Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and brought the good news that those enslaved had been freed. Months later, the 13th Amendment was ratified, abolishing slavery in the final four border states that had not been subjected to President Abraham Lincoln's order.

The celebration has previously been called Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Black Independence Day.

NFDW members are urged to thank President Joe Biden for his leadership in making this important day a federal holiday. Write letters to the editor and social media posts. Then join the local celebrations in your areas. This is a red-letter day that should be celebrated.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Buckner".

President, NFDW

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