

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Juneteenth Independence Day is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over and that the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS: Juneteenth Independence Day is a day to celebrate the last vestiges of more than 200 years of slavery and to demonstrate racial reconciliation and healing after the shameful legacy of oppression; and

WHEREAS: African Americans have made great strides, defeating powerful and often violently racist opposition on the road to true equality; and

WHEREAS: Today, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas and as required by state law, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2015, as

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the State of Arkansas, and I urge all Arkansans to stand up in the face of bigotry and help to bring our country and our State a step closer to victory in the long march toward social justice.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2015.

  
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ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR



Attest:

  
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MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE