

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 two hundred 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 by Ark. Code Ann. § 1-5-114, do hereby proclaim June 17, 2017 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 22nd day of March, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:



Mark Martin, Secretary Of State