




The Importance of JUNETEENTH

"End of slavery in America is still celebrated today, in the form of the **J**uneteenth celebration, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth commemorates freedom for African Americans. Juneteenth emphasizes education and achievement as a critical issue. The name comes from the melding of June and Nineteenth, or June 19th. It is marked with celebrations of community gatherings."

IT seems like so long ago. The American Civil War ended in 1865. President Abraham Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved people in the Southern states back in 1863**, but it took the end of the war to turn the words into law. This was **the day that slavery ended in Galveston, Texas, in 1865 (two years later)**. **AND** from the **freed slaves** of Galveston **came the Juneteenth celebration**. It is a joyous occasion, punctuated by great feasts and great gatherings of people. Celebrations take place all over the United States.

BUT why is this celebration so important? Slavery was outlawed by the Thirteenth Amendment, which was passed in 1865. African-Americans, under the law at least, are granted equal protection by the Fourteenth Amendment and an equal right to vote by the Fifteenth Amendment.

WHY is Juneteenth so important? It gives African-Americans (and indeed everyone living in America) a sense of togetherness. The end of slavery was the first step toward racial equality in America. You don't have to be African-American to join in celebrating the anniversary of the end of slavery. Slavery was a terrible event. Many people of all skin colors fought tirelessly to end it, and their efforts should not go unnoticed. "Freedom is **not** free and we must fight for it every day because we are fighting for our children and the next generation". This shared knowledge will continue to unite all groups as we look back at the sacrifices made by others and build positively on the freedoms that have been attained

 **BY celebrating the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth**, you are celebrating an important event. For without the end of slavery, the great country now known as the United States of America would not have been possible. Further, the Civil Rights act and Voting Rights act (1965) addressed the legal issues **.....Equal Access by ALL individuals to Education, Equal Right to Vote and Equal Protection Under the Law.**

The Board of Trustees of Roosevelt Children's Academy invited the community to join RCA on Friday June 19th, 2015 for a family celebration to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Juneteenth (view youtube video).

Many shared stories of how their families were impacted, how they have made great sacrifices, endured much, how their daily lives were marked not only with inequality but also by determination to maintain the freedom. Most have achieved this through education and have made a difference in their family and community.
SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY AND STORY WITH YOUR CHILD.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots" Marcus Garvey.

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