

This week we celebrated Juneteenth, a time of tremendous joy for Black Americans. It's a day that honors the emancipation of Black people. It inspires gatherings, festivals, commemorations, and an overwhelming sense of pride, community, and fellowship. Juneteenth allows us to remember and honor—in whatever way we choose—those who fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. And although it serves as a reflection of how far we've come, it also implores us to recognize how much work we still have to do. Juneteenth was just enshrined as a federal holiday last year, after all.

On June 19, 1865, the people of Galveston, Texas decided to celebrate the announcement of General Order No. 3, which demanded the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in the state and freed all remaining enslaved people. Much like our ancestors who pushed and protested and demanded freedom, we're encouraged by this day to continue to demand equity by speaking truth to power. This and every year, we commemorate Juneteenth as a testament to black joy, resilience, ingenuity, creativity, and brilliance in the face of seemingly insurmountable hardship. Because the spirit of celebration—despite our myriad struggles—is our legacy. Happy Juneteenth, everyone!