

FREEDOM DAY



JUNE 19th

JUNETEENTH



Presented by: Community Acting Now
ACT NOW! DO GOOD! BE THE DIFFERENCE
Email: info@communityactingnow.com
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PROGRAM

Welcome

Gratitude

Reflect

Reassess

Recommit

Rejoice

Lift Every Voice and Sing
James Weldon Johnson (lyrics)
J. Rosamond Johnson (music)
Verse 2 & Refrain 2

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died,
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers
sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has
been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the
blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is
cast

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

Emancipation Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America:

Abraham Lincoln

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas on the 22nd day of September, A.D. 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom."

"That the executive will on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the first day above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Palquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebone, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Morthampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all case when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

General Order #3 (Read by General Gordon Granger, "19th of June",

Read by General Gordon Granger "19th of June", 1865 Galveston, TX

General Order #3

"The people are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, become that between employer and hired labor. The freed are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that

"It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me and I think that's pretty important"
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.~

Apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans

Introduced By Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN)
U.S. House of Representatives
July 26, 2008

Whereas millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the 13 American colonies from 1619 through 1865;

Whereas slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals;

Whereas Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage;

Whereas enslaved families were torn apart after having been sold separately from one another;

Whereas the system of slavery and the visceral racism against persons of African descent upon which it depended became entrenched in the Nation's social fabric;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the passage of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865 after the end of the Civil War, which was fought over the slavery issue;

Whereas after emancipation from 246 years of slavery, African-Americans soon saw the fleeting political, social, and economic gains they made during Reconstruction eviscerated by virulent racism, lynchings, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws that imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life;

Whereas the system of de jure racial segregation known as 'Jim Crow,' which arose in certain parts of the Nation following the Civil War to create separate and unequal societies for whites and African-Americans, was a direct result of the racism against persons of African descent engendered by slavery;

Whereas the system of Jim Crow laws officially existed into the 1960's--a century after the official end of slavery in America--until Congress took action to end it, but the vestiges of Jim Crow continue to this day;

Whereas African-Americans continue to suffer from the consequences of slavery and Jim Crow--long after both systems were formally abolished--through enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible, including the loss of human dignity and liberty, the frustration of careers and professional lives, and the long-term loss of income and opportunity;

Whereas the story of the enslavement and de jure segregation of African-Americans and the dehumanizing atrocities committed against them should not be purged from or minimized in the telling of American history;

Whereas on July 8, 2003, during a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port, President George W. Bush acknowledged slavery's continuing legacy in American life and the need to confront that legacy when he stated that slavery 'was . . . one of the greatest crimes of history . . . The racial bigotry fed by slavery did not end with slavery or with segregation. And many of the issues that still trouble America have roots in the bitter experience of other times. But however long the journey, our destiny is set: liberty and justice for all.';

Whereas President Bill Clinton also acknowledged the deep-seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African-Americans that began with slavery when he initiated a national dialogue about race;

Whereas a genuine apology is an important and necessary first step in the process of racial reconciliation;

Whereas an apology for centuries of brutal dehumanization and injustices cannot erase the past, but confession of the wrongs committed can speed racial healing and reconciliation and help Americans confront the ghosts of their past;

Whereas the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia has recently taken the lead in adopting a resolution officially expressing appropriate remorse for slavery and other State legislatures are considering similar resolutions; and

Whereas it is important for this country, which legally recognized slavery through its Constitution and its laws, to make a formal apology for slavery and for its successor, Jim Crow, so that it can move forward and seek reconciliation, justice, and harmony for all of its citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

(1) acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and Jim Crow;

(2) apologizes to African-Americans on behalf of the people of the United States, for the wrongs committed against them and their ancestors who suffered under slavery and Jim Crow; and

(3) expresses its commitment to rectify the lingering consequences of the misdeeds committed against African-Americans under slavery and Jim Crow and to stop the occurrence of human rights violations in the future.

BACKGROUND

Jealous & Paige: Don't institutionalize ignorance

Benjamin Todd Jealous and Rod Paige, *SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS*
(taken from *statesman.com* May 19, 2010)

McCarthy. Yet the proposed standards would gloss over such injustices. Students who have studied poll taxes and their abolition will have a better perspective on when taxation is used inappropriately. Our future voters need a strong grounding in our nation's full history.

We are — and have always been — a nation of immigrants. It is vital for citizens who will work alongside diverse peers to have an accurate understanding of colleagues' background and culture. Minimizing or misrepresenting African American and Latino culture and history can lead to distorted beliefs regarding our fellow Americans. And it can lead students from those ethnic groups to have a skewed picture of themselves and their place in the world. Studies of high school dropout rates have shown that students became disengaged with classes because what they were learning didn't seem relevant to their lives. In a 2006 national study, more students cited disengagement and disinterest in their lessons as a factor in leaving school than those who reported serious academic challenges. With 50 percent dropout rates in some cities, can we really afford to drive any more young people from the schoolhouse door? If learning about César Chávez or Thurgood Marshall will inspire a student to study government or law, we cannot afford to pass up that opportunity.

When the board convenes today, we will raise our voices for accuracy and fairness. Our children are entitled to broad exposure to all the facts of American history, government and economic theory. No one expects a representative board of regular folks to manage the curriculum to that level of detail. Instead, we urge the board to vote down these proposed changes, take some more time to set out broad guidelines ensuring all students are equipped to compete and thrive, then follow the thoughtful recommendations of their fellow Texans who are educators, economists and historians.

Our future is at stake. Will we prepare our youth for success in the 21st century or let nostalgia for the 19th century hobble graduates and leave many students behind? Will Texas prioritize ideology over our children or give students the world-class education they deserve?

Rewriting history is not promoting patriotism; it is institutionalizing ignorance.

Jealous is president and CEO of the NAACP. Paige is senior advisor to the Madison Education Group and former U.S. Secretary of Education (2001-2005).

Not in My State: Sign The Petition Today

The Texas State Board of Education is on the verge of erasing significant amounts of African-American and American history from student textbooks.

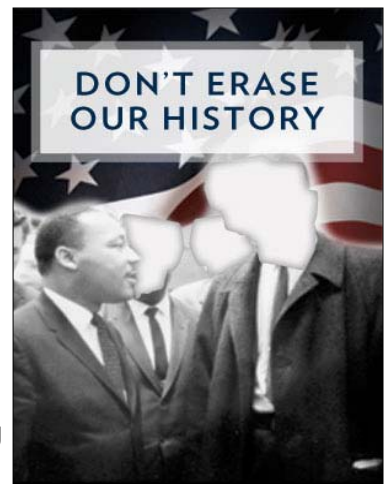
Among the many proposed changes are attempts to paint the Confederacy in a positive light, rewrite the civil rights era, downplay the contributions of nonwhite characters in Texas history, and ignore the atrocities committed on our own soil by groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

These revisions are deeply offensive to not only African-Americans and Texans -- but all Americans.

Make it known throughout your state that if Texas textbook standards pass, they won't be coming into your classrooms.

American history -- the good, the bad and the ugly -- is what makes our country so special. Let's keep it that way.

Add your voice of protest. Sign the Not in My State Pledge to stop history from being rewritten: <http://www.naacp.org>



I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other".
~Harriett Tubman~

CALL ME AFRICAN-AMERICAN

By Rhonda Mathis-Howell

Call me African-American; for that is what I am.
My roots; they lie in Africa, deep in the heart of the motherland.
Do not call me black, for I am not the shade of midnight.
My skin is the hue of ebony wood; that's beautiful in my own sight.
Do not call me Afro-American; for that's not the style I wear.
Define me by my heritage; not be the design of my hair.
Do not call me colored; for I am not a page in a book,
colored in with brown crayon for the world to gawk and look.
My roots lie in Africa; deep in the heart of the motherland.
Please call me African-American; for that is what I am.

BLACK QUIZZES

African-American History and Trivia
By Ronald S. Mathis
La Amistad International Publishing Inc.

1. What is the name of this African American woman who became the first black female millionaire?
2. What song is know as the "Negro National Anthem?"
3. What American President did Sally Hemmings, a slave bare children for?
4. Who is named "The Father of Black History"?
5. Name the 4th principal of Kwanzaa.
6. Who was the first African-American Supreme Court Justice?
7. Who was the first African American to serve as Ambassador to the United Nations?
8. "What Manner of Man" is an autobiography of what man?
9. What famous jazz singer bled to death because she was refused admittance to an all-white hospital near where she was involved in an automobile accident
10. Name these two militant civil rights leaders who founded the Black Panther Party.