

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, officially ending slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the freedom of most slaves depended on the advancement of the Union Army led by General Gordon Granger, who enforced the President's order in Texas, one of the last states to allow ownership of slaves, on June 18, 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1865, African Americans have celebrated Juneteenth to commemorate the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the South by General Granger two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

**WHEREAS**, this historic moment would not have been possible without the courage and sacrifice of the nearly 200,000 former enslaved and free African Americans who fought for freedom and liberty alongside more than 2 million Union servicemembers; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth commemorates the strength and determination of African Americans who were first brought to American soil in the hulls of slave ships traveling the trade route known as the "Middle Passage" and celebrates the rich heritage and accomplishments of African-Americans in our country; and

**WHEREAS**, Title I, §150-H states that the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation designating the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth Independence Day to commemorate the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2020 as

## **Juneteenth**

throughout the State of Maine and I urge all citizens to recommit themselves to defending the self-evident truth as declared by our founders that all people are created equal.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the  
Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed  
GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this  
fourth day of June Two Thousand Twenty

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY