

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD

PROCLAMATION

Juneteenth National Independence Day on June 19, 2023

WHEREAS For the first time this year, the Town of Concord is honoring Juneteenth National Independence Day. This town supported celebration is a formal recognition of the dignity and importance of this holiday for all residents of Concord and those who visit; and

WHEREAS Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining "June" and "nineteenth", it is celebrated on the anniversary of the order, issued by Major General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for the enslaved in Texas. The last to be freed; and

WHEREAS We honor all those who struggled during the War of the Rebellion to end the stain of enslavement in our nation including African American Concordian and native son Pvt. George Washington Dugan who served in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and gave his life at the Battle of Fort Wagner; and

WHEREAS The Massachusetts 54th one of the first Black regiments to serve in the U.S. Civil War. Through their heroic, yet tragic, assault on Battery Wagner, South Carolina in July 1863, the 54th helped inspire the enlistment of more than 180,000 Black soldiers...a boost in morale and manpower that Lincoln recognized as essential to the victory of the United States and the destruction of enslavement throughout the country; and

WHEREAS The Town of Concord recognizes its connection with Juneteenth, and its African American residents and families who each in their own way contributed to our nation's ongoing struggle for freedom as Patriots of Color, Union Soldiers, Abolitionists and Civil Rights Advocates. This includes Brister Freeman, Caesar Robbins, and the Robbins, Garrison, Hutchinson and Dugan families; and

WHEREAS Originating in Galveston, Juneteenth has since been observed annually in various parts of the United States, often broadly celebrating African American culture. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act; and

WHEREAS Juneteenth National Independence Day commemorates the day of freedom for African Americans and acknowledges the resilience and determination of African Americans while honoring all those who have paved the road to freedom; and Juneteenth is a second Independence Day for our Nation, a celebratory day of African American culture to recognize the many contributions and influence that the African American community has made to our Nation; and

WHEREAS The emancipation of enslaved Black Americans was not the end of the Nation's work to deliver on the promise of equality — it was only the beginning. On Juneteenth, we recommit to our shared work to ensure racial justice, equity, and equality in America. We commemorate the centuries of struggle and progress led by abolitionists, educators, civil rights advocates, and everyday Americans who have brought our Nation closer to fulfilling its promise.

NOW, THEREFORE We, as the Select Board for the Town of Concord, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2023, as Juneteenth National Independence Day, and we invite the Concord community to join us for celebratory events that honor our history and our community, as we encourage our community to celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day 2023.

Proclaimed this 5th day of June, 2023.



Mary Hartman
[Signature]
[Signature]
Concord Select Board