State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JUNETEENTH DAY

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that as of January 1, 1863, all slaves in the rebellious states would be thenceforward and forever free; and

WHEREAS, it took almost three more years of conflict and loss to bring about the end of the Civil War and in December 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was nationally ratified, ending the sanctioned institution of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the news of freedom disseminated gradually throughout the nation; on June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers, led by General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3 announcing freedom to some of the last slaves in America; and

WHEREAS, June 19, or Juneteenth, became nationally recognized as National Freedom Day, commemorating the abolition of sanctioned slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on this anniversary each year, organizations and individuals throughout North Carolina and our nation celebrate African American heritage, history, freedom, and culture with events and ceremonies that reflect the power of community, family, art, and tradition in the face of oppression; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages people to observe Juneteenth as an opportunity to reflect, rejoice, and plan for a brighter future as we continue to address racial injustices in our society today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2018, as **"JUNETEENTH DAY"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.