
SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Yxstian Gutierrez



District 5

June 19th, 2023

Dear District 5 Residents,

Today marks the 19th of June, a date in American history that serves as a staple in our nation's evolution. Juneteenth symbolizes beacons of hope, resilience, liberty, and justice for all no matter their skin color. This Juneteenth, District 5 would like to recognize how far we have come along as a Country and the work that has yet to be done in our communities.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, was given its name on June 19, 1865. On this day, an announcement that changed the lives of many for generations to come was released to the public. The law has finally changed as there was an abolition of slavery in Texas and, more generally, the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the former Confederacy. For these obvious reasons, Juneteenth serves as a significant milestone in both African American history and American history.

Though the Emancipation Proclamation had legally freed slaves almost two and a half years earlier, enforcement throughout the South was inconsistent until after the Civil War's end. Juneteenth marks the day Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

This day, then, symbolizes the enduring struggle for equality, a reminder of a pivotal moment that represents the dawn of a new era of freedom. Juneteenth emphasizes education and achievement, allowing all Americans to learn about and appreciate the African American experience.

The concept of freedom is intrinsically woven into the fabric of America and is an indispensable aspect of our national identity. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the ongoing efforts towards equality and justice, the pursuit of freedom is a significant thread that runs throughout our history.

Freedom, however, is not absolute. It comes with responsibilities and the understanding that one person's freedom should not infringe upon another's. Therefore, it requires a delicate balance, demanding respect for the rights of others and the rule of law. This balancing act forms as the cornerstone of democratic societies. We must respect and coexist with one another as Americans, but most importantly as neighbors in our communities.

As we move forward, it is essential to remember the price paid for the freedoms we enjoy today, to acknowledge the work still to be done, and to strive continuously for a society that upholds the dignity and rights of all its members. As the backbone of America, the ideology of freedom inspires us to continually strive toward a more just, equitable, and inclusive society for all.

With warm regards,

Yxstian Gutierrez
County Supervisor

