

Commemorates the
end of slavery
in the United states.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued
the Emancipation Proclamation,
during the American Civil War,
declaring more than three million
slaves living in the confederate states
to be free.

On June 19, 1865 -
OVER 2 YEARS LATER -
the news
of the Emancipation Proclamation
reached African Americans
living in Texas. It was not until
Union soldiers arrived in Galveston,
TX on June 19, 1865 that the state's
residents finally learned slavery
had been abolished.

In 1866, June 19th was transformed
from a day of unheeded
military orders into an annual rite,
"Juneteenth."

In 1980, Juneteenth became
a state holiday in Texas,
with a number of states
following.

Celebrations include recognizing the end of slavery
culture and achievements of African Americans
include prayer and religious services, speeches,
family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with

