



# NONPROFIT

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Acknowledges

## JUNETEENTH

- Juneteenth, observed on **June 19th**, is the celebration of when many enslaved Blacks received word that they had been freed.
- The State of Maryland actively participated and profited from the horrific system of slavery, with Prince George's County having the largest number of enslaved Blacks in the state, with as many as 12,000 in the year 1860.
- Nonprofit Prince George's County acknowledges this day as a *Day of Remembrance/Service*.

## ABOUT JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, led by General Gordon Granger, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with the news that the war had ended and enslaved Blacks were now free. Note, this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which became official January 1, 1863.

### Pioneers of Juneteenth

**Black Union Soldiers**- By the end of the Civil War, approximately 179,000 Black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the US Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. There were nearly 80 Black commissioned officers.

**Major General Gordon Granger**-(1822 -1876) In 1863 he led Union soldiers into Galveston, Texas to announce the end of slavery.

**Frederick Douglass** (1818?-1895)- Assisted with the recruitment of Black men for the Union Army. He encouraged Black men to become soldiers to ensure eventual full citizenship.

**Harriet Tubman** (1820?-1913)- Black women could not formally join the Army, however, they served as nurses, spies, and scouts, the most famous being Harriet Tubman, who scouted for the South Carolina Volunteers.

**Thomas Peterson** (1824-1904)- On March 30, 1870, in New Jersey, Thomas Peterson became the first African-American man to legally cast a ballot, the day after the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified.

### Significant Events

**December 31, 1862** - "FREEDOM EVE" The first Watch Night services took place. Enslaved and free Blacks gathered in churches and private homes across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect.

**January 1, 1863**- At midnight, all enslaved Blacks in the Confederate States were declared legally free.

**Everyone was not immediately free.** Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in **1863**, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control.

**On June 19, 1865**, about 2000 Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to deliver the news to more than 250,000 enslaved Blacks, that they were free by executive decree.

**In 1862** slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia and many enslaved Blacks in Prince George's County fled to freedom there. In **January 1865**, emancipation took effect in Maryland and brought a legal end to chattel slavery in the state.



# NONPROFIT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

## Call To Action

We encourage nonprofit organizations to stand together in solidarity and offer Juneteenth as a paid *Day of Remembrance/Service*. This is a day that marks a watershed moment in Black and American history by acknowledging the legal end of a brutal institution. Although the road ahead would be hard, the long journey to true freedom could begin. Today the journey to true freedom, equity and liberation continues.

### What Can You Do?

- 1- Learn about Juneteenth** - Read a book or watch a documentary about the historical significance of this day.
- 2- Educate Someone** - Spark a Conversation with someone, in your immediate circle, that is not familiar with this day and share with them what you have learned.
- 3- Make a Personal Donation to a Black led/centered organization**- Research shows that funding for organizations led by and/or centered on Black people lags behind their white mainstream counterpart led organizations.
- 4- Encourage Corporate People in Power to Support Black led/centered organization** - Identify someone in a leadership position within a corporate or philanthropic organization to support an organization led by and/or centered on Black people.
- 5-Donate your Time** - Dedicate the day of service to participate in a project in a predominantly Black community.

### Organizations to Support

*Click on any of these links to learn how to get involved.*

- [Nonprofit Prince George's County](#)
- [100 Black Men of Prince George's](#)
- [The Training Source](#)
- [Community Youth Advance](#)
- [CKAR CDC](#)
- [Love Over Violent Energy](#)
- [The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence](#)
- [Prince George's African-American Museum & Cultural Center](#)
- [District Heights Family & Youth Services Bureau](#)
- [Prince George's County Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [Support Black Businesses in Maryland](#)

\*information and research compiled from the African-American History Museum

supported in partnership with:



### CONNECT WITH US

