Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in [Galveston](http://www.history.com/topics/1900-galveston-hurricane), [Texas](http://www.history.com/topics/us-states/texas) in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after [the signing](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lincoln-signs-emancipation-proclamation) of the [Emancipation Proclamation](http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/emancipation-proclamation). Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it [officially became a federal holiday](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/18/a-proclamation-on-juneteenth-day-of-observance-2021/). Juneteenth 2024 will occur on Wednesday, June 19.