

Juneteenth designated U.S. national holiday

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Pres. Biden signed the Congressional bill marking Juneteenth as a national holiday, and will be celebrated by federal employees Friday, Jun. 18 this year.

The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act has designated June 19th as a federal holiday. This year, the federal government will observe Juneteenth as a federal holiday on Friday, 18 June 2021.

USAWC and Carlisle Barracks employees should also observe this as a federal holiday. Please contact your supervisor to confirm whether your office has mission critical operations which must continue on Friday, June 18, 2021.

June 19 is the anniversary of the date in 1864 when a Union general informed a group of enslaved people in Texas that they had been made free two years earlier by President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.

Juneteenth will be the eleventh federally recognized holiday, joining a list that includes Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Independence Day, as well as days honoring presidents and slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Juneteenth became a national holiday today when U.S. President Joe Biden, with Vice President Kamala Harris, signed a bill making June 19 a federal holiday, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The bill passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate, and by a large majority in the House of Representatives.