

PRESS STATEMENT

National Federation of Paralegal Associations Statement on Juneteenth

Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day), celebrated on June 19th, is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. It honors African American freedom with an emphasis on education and achievement. Originally a commemoration of the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, Juneteenth is now widely recognized. President Biden is expected to sign the bill on Saturday making Juneteenth a federal holiday. It is the first federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into law in 1983.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery in the United States upon issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. However, it took over two-and-a-half years until June 19, 1865 for the news to travel to southwest Texas, the last region in the country to practice slavery.

The recognition of Juneteenth contains lessons from our historical past that can help ensure that an aberration such as this is never repeated, and is indicative of the American spirit of cooperation, perseverance, determination, and forgiveness.

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NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 8,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession and promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

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