



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-041

ORDERING FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY AND TO RECOGNIZE VICTIMS OF RACISM AND HATE

This Order commemorates Juneteenth Freedom Day, which is an official State holiday recognizing the importance of African Americans as American citizens and New Mexico residents.

The purpose of Juneteenth Freedom Day is to reflect on the history of African-American slavery in the United States, including the experience of Africans brought to the United States in a five- to twelve-week journey across the Atlantic; the deaths of thousands of Africans who died in inhuman conditions of passage; the abuse of African-American slaves, including whipping, castration, branding, and rape; and the importance of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery throughout the United States and its territories.

Juneteenth occurs on June 19th of each year to honor June 19, 1865, the day on which a message regarding the abolition of slavery is said to have reached the western states. In New Mexico, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 12-5-14, Juneteenth Freedom Day is observed on the third Saturday of June, which is June 20th this year.

The abolition of slavery in the United States is an important milestone worthy of celebration but, unfortunately, we have not come close to fully eradicating its pernicious impacts on society. We must acknowledge that racism and racial inequalities – and the hatred and violence through which they are too often exercised – are still pervasive in the United States and they take many forms.

Juneteenth Freedom Day also presents an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we have failed to overcome the legacy of slavery by recognizing individuals who have been victims of racism and hate. We must stand together to listen to them and their advocates, and to honor them by working for change.

THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT that all state flags be flown at half-staff beginning at sundown on June 18, 2020 and lasting through sundown of June 20, 2020. This action will commemorate Juneteenth, the State's official observation of Juneteenth Freedom Day, and is also intended to acknowledge victims of racism and hate throughout our State and the United States.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2020

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Michelle Lujan Grisham
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

