

Juneteenth

A Celebration Of African American independence

June 19th is an unofficial holiday observed by millions of African Americans, primarily in some southern states. The holiday originated in Texas during the Civil War period, when news of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862, to become effective on January 1, 1863, did not reach Texas slaves until June 1865. The slaves immediately left the plantations, congregated in cities and began celebrating their freedom by praying, feasting, dancing and singing.

Juneteenth originated in Texas and has now become a state holiday there. As Texans of African Americans descent have migrated across the United States and settled elsewhere, they have taken the observance of Juneteenth with them. More and more descendants of slaves in other states are joining in the celebration and seeking in some instance to make the holiday a legal one in their respective states. Observances are held to a more or lesser degree in Louisiana, the Carolinas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, California and Illinois. Naturally Barbecue, prepared Texas style, dominates the feasting. The festivities start at dawn when pits are fired up for the barbecuing and the heady aroma of chili cooking fills the air. Juneteenth is a Mardi Gras without the Costumes.

Get Involved

Come to the community meetings and help to build this legacy. You don't have to live in the area to help or support. *Please Visit:*

The Sun Village Chamber of Commerce meetings:
Every second Monday of the month...661-944-2341

The Sun Village Town Council meetings:
Every Forth Monday of the month. 661-944-1186

Friends of Jackie Robinson County Park meetings:
Every Third Wednesday of the month...661-944-2880

All are welcome to come to the meetings. Call for information on the location and we look forward to meeting you.





JUNE 20,21,22nd 2008 THE FRIENDS OF JACKIE ROBINSON COUNTY PARK ALONG WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION, THE SUN VILLAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND SUN VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL.

The celebration of Juneteenth in Sun Village, CA has a life of its own, which continues to evolve and grow. The success of sixteen previous celebrations was the result of community networking. City officials, Los Angeles County, community groups, businesses, churches, media representatives, educators, artists, and others all contributed their time and money. The result, was the bringing together of a wide cross-section of the Antelope Valley community in the celebration of a major African American Cultural event. With sixteen successful festivals, and previous year's attendance over 4,000, Juneteenth in Sun Village has become a Southern California area wide tradition. Sun Village Juneteenth Festival has established a reputation as the Antelopes Valley's longest running Juneteenth celebration. With our organization firmly in place, and to cement our existence, the Friends of Jackie Robinson Park goal is an expanded cultural scope: interacting, educating and networking with all segments of our culturally diverse community. To maximize this event to more than a weekend-long festival, several components are being introduced, and some expanded so that the historical, educational, and cultural significance remain at the forefront.

PROCLAMATION

06/02/2005



Governor Schwarzenegger Proclaims June 19th "Juneteenth"

PROCLAMATION

by the

Governor of the State of California

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, to enforce President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and declare freedom for all slaves. Each year thereafter, former Texas slaves and their descendants joined in a celebration of freedom on June 19, and the day became known as "Juneteenth."

Across our nation, Americans continue to celebrate Juneteenth, a day to reflect on the sufferings of slavery and to remember the joyful declaration of freedom. It is a time of rejoicing with family and friends and a time for planning the future.

In California, this celebration gives us the opportunity to commemorate the heritage of our thriving African American population. As we honor the courage and fortitude of their ancestors, we renew our commitment to combat injustice with the triumphant spirit of freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2005, as "Juneteenth." IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this the second day of June 2005.

/s/ Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

