
A Special Juneteenth Message from Myron McClure



Human Resources

For many, June brings the arrival of long summer day traditions, backyard barbecues, graduations, and family gatherings. But amid these seasonal traditions, June 19th carries a far deeper meaning. One that calls us to a moment of profound, collective remembrance.

Juneteenth is a day to honor the end of one of the darkest chapters in our nation's history and to celebrate the enduring triumph of the human spirit. It is a piece of American history I now share with my young kids using resources beyond our home, a stark contrast to how my parents shared it with me and my siblings long before it was ever recognized as a national holiday.

Marking the day in 1865 when the delayed news of freedom finally reached the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, Juneteenth reminds us that America's journey toward true liberty has been a long, hard-fought road. Today, we pause to honor the resilience, faith, and courage of those who endured the unimaginable and fought tirelessly to break the chains of oppression so that generations yet to come could walk in freedom.

Through the lens of faith, we are reminded of the ultimate promise found in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

While our history is filled with immense trouble and trials, we can take heart in the truth that injustice does not have the final word. We have a sacred duty to actively uphold dignity, justice, and equality because freedom is only truly realized when it belongs to all people.

As we look ahead at the work that remains to fully realize our nation's promise, let's remember, let's celebrate, and let's continue to learn all of America's history. True progress begins with an honest look at our past, echoing the enduring wisdom of Ida B. Wells: "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

As we celebrate Juneteenth, I offer these reflections:

1. Be like the pioneers of freedom. The intentional equity, flexibility, and support you extend to others today helps dismantle historical barriers, laying the groundwork for generations of thriving, dedicated communities.
2. Invest deeply in *this* community. Your work gains richness, and your life receives blessings when you connect with colleagues beyond professional responsibilities. True freedom is celebrated together, and the shared laughter, stories, and heritage are profoundly worth it.
3. Offer encouragement and keep learning. As we honor this pivotal day in American history, share a word of encouragement, offer a prayer, and commit to learning our shared past. Your active support and recognition of this journey matter immensely.

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