

RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2021, AS

JUNETEENTH

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that “all person held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”; and

WHEREAS, President Lincoln correctly believed slavery to be in violation of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and determined that its abolition represented a “new birth of freedom” for the nation; and

WHEREAS, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, Union Mayor General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston, Texas, and spread the news that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, the first official Juneteenth celebration took place in Texas the following year; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated annually for more than 150 years, making it the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) wishes to acknowledge and celebrate the significance of this celebration in African-American history and in the heritage of our nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BOCC hereby recognizes Juneteenth as an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made – and continue to make – in Lewis County and across our nation.

Done in open session this 15th day of June 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Gary Stamper, Chair

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

Sean D. Swope, Commissioner