👺 Juneteenth: Freedom Remembered 👺

June 19, 1865 — Juneteenth — marks the day Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, to finally enforce the freedom of the last enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy. Though slavery had been legally abolished in 1863, many Black men, women, and children remained in bondage until that day.

What Juneteenth stands for:

The delay of freedom reminds us that justice delayed is not justice denied — but it must always be pursued.

It honors the resilience, culture, faith, and strength of Black Americans.

It calls all people to remember that freedom is not just a legal matter but a human and spiritual one.

Lesser-known facts:

- ✓ Juneteenth has been celebrated since 1866 long before it was a federal holiday (2021).
- The original celebrations often included prayer services, gospel singing, and family reunions many traditions that continue today.
- ☑ "Juneteenth" combines "June" and "nineteenth," a uniquely American linguistic tradition.
- Some freed slaves walked hundreds of miles to reunite with lost family after June 19.
- The official colors of many Juneteenth flags red, white, blue symbolize that the freed were always American citizens.

Juneteenth is not just Black history. It's American history. It's human history.

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