

## For Immediate Release



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**From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate**  
Mecklenburg County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 15, 2022**

### **Senator Waddell acknowledges Juneteenth by Senatorial Statement**

**(Raleigh, NC)** – Senator Waddell reads a Senatorial Statement on the Floor of the Senate recognizing June 19<sup>th</sup> as the National Independence Day for the abolition of slavery.

Juneteenth National Independence Day is now a US federal holiday. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Many states officially recognize Juneteenth and have an official observance of the day, and some states hold celebrations.

Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes achievement and education and allows all of us to appreciate the gifts we have been given and the tools we all possess to better ourselves and those in the community around us. Juneteenth is a multifaceted event, designed for self-reflection, assessment, and planning for the future and often extends past the 19th, becoming a week-long, or sometimes month-long, celebration of opportunity for the African American community. This newly established federal holiday stands as a solemn reminder of the depravity humans are capable of and aims to prevent any return to that abominable behavior.

Officially known as Emancipation Day and also called Juneteenth Independence Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a combination word for June and nineteenth and commemorates the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and the emancipation of African American slaves throughout the Confederate South.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and 2022 marks the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth and its celebration of emancipation across the United States.

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**Joyce Waddell**  
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