

**Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



**DEPARTMENT ORDER No. #2
Series 2025-2026**

**PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING
THE
JUNETEENTH NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE DAY**



By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of California and Pacific, by the Department Bylaws, the National Constitution and Regulations, I hereby issue the following Proclamation Commemorating the Juneteenth National Independence Day 2025:

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, Union Major General Gordon Granger proclaimed freedom for more than 250,000 enslaved African Americans, enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation more than two years after it was issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and,

Whereas, Juneteenth—short for "June Nineteenth"—has come to symbolize not only the end of slavery in the United States, but also the enduring resilience, hope, and contributions of African Americans throughout our nation's history; and,

Whereas, generations of Black Americans have observed Juneteenth as a day of reflection, celebration, and reaffirmation of the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality; and,

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, the United States Congress established Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federal holiday, affirming its place in our national story as a day to remember both a painful legacy and the strength that has risen from it; and,

Whereas, the ideals of liberty and equality enshrined in our founding documents can only be fulfilled through vigilance, action, and the honoring of all who have struggled to make them real for every American; now,

I therefore proclaim, that on this Juneteenth National Independence Day (also known as Freedom Day), 19 June 2025, we pause to commemorate the liberation of the last enslaved people in our country, to honor the strength and spirit of their descendants, and to commit ourselves anew to the unceasing work of freedom, dignity, and justice for all.

Let bells ring, let voices rise, and let hearts remember: Freedom delayed is not freedom denied—and from struggle springs a more perfect union.

The foregoing Department Order is proclaimed this 16th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-ninth, in the City of Gridley, County of Butte, State of California by Owen R. Stiles, Commander of the Department of California and Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

By Order of: *Owen R. Stiles*

Owen R. Stiles, Commander
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



ATTEST: *Randy Dhindsa*

Randy Dhindsa, Secretary-Treasurer
Department of California and Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War