

Sen. Shilling: Commemorates Juneteenth

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MADISON - On this day in 1865, freedom from slavery became a reality for thousands of African-Americans living in Galveston, Texas. Although the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect two years prior during the midst of the Civil War, a few states including Texas did not adhere to the proclamation. On June 19, 1865, two months after the Civil War ended, Union General Gordon Granger led federal troops into Galveston, Texas to declare that all slaves were free. As part of the Juneteenth celebrations recognizing this event, Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) released the following statement:

“Freedom is a fundamental part of our nation’s legacy and today is an important day to not only reflect on the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens, but also focus on the challenges that still remain. Here in Wisconsin, we have some of the worst racial disparities in education, poverty, incarceration, and infant mortality rates in the nation. Everyone should have the same opportunity to achieve the American Dream through meaningful employment, a quality education, and affordable health care. Legislative Democrats will continue to fight for equity, equality, and inclusion for all no matter their zip code or skin color. On Juneteenth, we celebrate the triumphs of the past and recommit to working toward a brighter tomorrow for future generations.”