

# WGU Texas and Single Moms Society Sign Partnership

*Partnership supports single parents looking to advance their careers through education*



**WGU TEXAS**



(AUSTIN, TX) – WGU Texas and Single Moms Society announce a partnership to support single parents who want to advance their careers through education with pathways to earning a bachelor's or master's degree at WGU Texas.

Single Moms Society (SMS), an extensive online community for single parents and social service providers, has over 4,000 members in central Texas and beyond. SMS is dedicated to helping single parents navigate their challenging lives by offering valuable information on services and resources that can help improve their lives.

SMS members and employees can apply for the \$2,500 Institutional Partners Fund scholarship through the partnership. WGU Texas is committed to removing obstacles by providing pathways to education. It has established various educational tools to support learners, including WGU Academy, which provides an ideal launching pad for future degree success at WGU.

"WGU Texas is thrilled to partner with Single Moms Society," said Linda Battles, WGU Regional Vice President, South. "We recognize the importance of education in the lives of single parents and believe that through this partnership, we can help remove the barriers that often stand in the way of success."

WGU Texas offers over 65 accredited degree programs, with various online certifications and credentials as part of the curriculum. With a flexible

and affordable competency-based educational model, the university has been helping working professionals boost their careers and make meaningful changes in their lives.

Single Moms Society Founder and CEO Kim Anthony said, "We are delighted to partner with WGU Texas to support our community. SMS believes education is pivotal in enabling single parents to accomplish their goals, be more successful, and enrich their lives. We look forward to sharing information about WGU's offerings with our members."

Through the agreement, employees and members may select among bachelor's and master's degree programs in information technology, business, health professions, and teaching. In addition to the scholarship, WGU Texas offers these benefits, including:

- Program mentor supported and designed to fit into busy schedules,
  - Access to more than 30 additional scholarships and financial aid,
  - Comprehensive and generous transfer policy,
  - Access to career services, student and alumni events and activities, and benefit fairs and information events,
  - Flat rate tuition is around \$3800 per term. Earn a respected degree for about half the national average.
- For more information about WGU Texas and its partnership with Single Moms Society, please visit [texas.wgu.edu](https://texas.wgu.edu) and [wgu.edu/singlemomssociety](https://wgu.edu/singlemomssociety).

## Black hero of World War I has Louisiana Army base renamed in his honor

By Associated Press

FORT JOHNSON, La. (AP) — A U.S. Army base in western Louisiana was renamed Tuesday to honor Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a Black hero of World War I who received the Medal of Honor nearly a century later.

Fort Johnson had previously been named after a Confederate commander, Leonidas Polk. The renaming is part of the U.S. military's efforts to address historic racial injustice — work that included changing the names of nine Army posts that commemorated Confederate officers.

"Sgt. William Henry Johnson embodied the warrior spirit, and we are deeply honored to bear his name," Brig. Gen. David Garner, the commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, said in a post on Twitter.

While serving on the front lines of France in 1918, Johnson fought off a German night raid near the Argonne Forest, according to the National Museum of the United States Army.

Johnson was wounded 21 times while beating back the attacking forces. He also prevented a wounded Black comrade from being taken prisoner when, after running out of grenades and ammunition, he killed two German soldiers with his knife.

"His frantic attacks broke the German morale and the enemy raiding party retreated," the Army museum's biography of Johnson says.

He survived the war, and former President Theodore Roosevelt named him one of the five bravest Americans to serve in the conflict. He insisted he was no hero, and the Army biography quotes him as saying, "There wasn't anything so fine about it. Just fought for my life. A rabbit would have done that."

His brave actions were recognized nearly a



Sgt. Henry Johnson of the 369th Infantry Regiment was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for bravery during an outnumbered battle with German soldiers, Feb. 12, 1919. U.S. Army file.



century later when he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2015 "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

However, Johnson's actions were not recognized by the Army, which denied him a disability allowance and did not award him a Purple Heart. Due to his injuries, he struggled after returning home to Albany, New York, and died of a heart condition in 1929. He was 32 years old.

The current process of renaming nine Army posts marks the first time bases will be named after Black soldiers and women.

Earlier this month, Fort Bragg in North Carolina became Fort Liberty, and Fort Benning in Georgia was renamed Fort Moore last month.

The original naming process involved members of local communities, although Black residents were left out of the conversations. Bases were named after soldiers born or raised nearby, no matter how effectively they performed their duties. Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg is widely regarded among historians as a poor leader who did not have the respect of his troops.

## Your Guide to Juneteenth: Everything You Need to Know About the Holiday

by CHRISTEN A. JOHNSON | COSMOPOLITAN

(JUNETEENTH) - For a lot of Americans, June 19 was just another day until May 2020, when the Black Lives Matter movement was revitalized across the country in the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police. (Floyd's death on May 24 made him just one of many Black Americans to die as a result of police violence that year alone.)

Much like previous years when unarmed Black people were assaulted or killed by police or authority-like figures (see: Rodney King, Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and a quite literal endless list of others), systemic racism was thrust into the forefront of American media and minds (of mostly of non-Black people's minds—racism, and how to navigate it in order to survive, is typically on melanated folks' minds). Thousands of people flooded the streets in protest. Folks you hadn't talked to since high school reached out to know "how to be a good ally." Required reading lists circulated socials.

But this time around, the racial reckoning brought an interest in Juneteenth, **the holiday that commemorates the official end of slavery in the United States and has long been celebrated by Black Americans for more than 150 years.** The holiday—sometimes referred to as Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day, or Emancipation Day—was deemed a federal holiday in 2021 when President Biden signed it into legislation on June 17.

### The History of Juneteenth

While the official end of slavery should have come on January 1, 1863 when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, many Black Americans—specifically those in states still under Confederate control—remained enslaved for years after. **The complete end of slavery actually came on June 19, 1865,** about two months after Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia at the end of the Civil War. On this date, Union general Gordon Granger (and approximately 2,000 Union soldiers) went to Galveston, Texas, which had been under Confederate control, to inform the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people that they were now free, per executive decree. Those in this group were the last remaining slaves in the U.S.

According to Juneteenth.com, Granger and his soldiers were met with shock and joy upon delivering the news, and **the people broke out in massive celebrations in honor of their newfound freedom.** After leaving the plantations, some folks traveled north, while others went in search of friends and family in nearby southern states. For years after, many formerly enslaved Black people and their descendants traveled to Galveston on June 19 to remember the glorious news that was received there and to celebrate the holiday that became known as Juneteenth. Many still do.

### What Juneteenth Celebrations Look Like

Today, Black Americans gather on Juneteenth to participate in activities and traditions that have developed over the years. Past and present get-togethers often include fishing, picnics, rodeos, baseball, and prayer sessions, according to [Juneteenth.com](https://Juneteenth.com), and elders and guest speakers are often asked to speak about the history and significance of the day.

Of course, celebrations are regional and generational. In Texas and other southern states, expect parades, picnics, festivals and maybe even annual family reunions (IYKYK). And don't forget some northern cities like Chicago and Detroit, where many Black Southerners migrated during Jim Crow. There you'll get big ol' barrel BBQ grills with hot links galore. And in historically Black neighborhoods in New York City, like Harlem and Bed-Stuy, block parties abound to mark the day.

In terms of food, historically, red-colored dishes are significant, so there's usually lots of red velvet cake, watermelon, hot sauce, and strawberry soda (or other crimson-hued beverages). Typical BBQ foods tend to take center stage, but traditional soul food dishes are stars of the show too, especially the ones that are common in Black households on New Year's Eve, like black-eyed peas, collard greens, corn bread—basically, all the side dishes our grandmamas deemed as "prosperity foods."

But, like Blackness, celebrating Juneteenth isn't monolithic. Not all the celebs are full-fledged functions or turn ups. Honoring the historical day is both communal and personal, so observing it should feel fulfilling to the individual partaking. That can include wellness rituals, some sort of spiritual work, listening to a panel, or meditating to name a few.

COVID-19 put many Juneteenth plans on pause for the last few years, but 2023 is set to be the year that celebrations happen in full force (aka, WE OUTSIDE). **This year, June 19 is a Monday, so the public holiday will be observed then.**

### Why Juneteenth Matters

Today, Juneteenth is used as a day to not only remember the official end of slavery in the country but also celebrate Blackness in its fullness. **It also gives non-Black Americans a chance to assess the work that still needs to be done to achieve true racial equity and equality.**

June 19, 1865, is technically the day that Black Americans gained freedom in this country, but every day since has been a battle for racial justice in a country rooted in and defined by white supremacy. Even 157 years after that executive decree, the U.S. is still plagued with daily acts of racism, only some of which make national headlines. The fight for racial equity in this country is ongoing, but Juneteenth symbolizes a step toward a better future. And that is worth celebrating.