**Make Juneteenth a National Holiday**

By William Reed

The right of every American to be free of racial discrimination is enshrined in the Emancipation Proclamation. Yet, 150 years later, this right remains an elusive ideal. This year, let us commemorate the proclamation and remember its legacy.

The Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declared that all slaves held in the rebellious states were to be forever free. This historic document marked a turning point in the Civil War and paved the way for the eventual abolition of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth, observed on June 19, commemorates the day that Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and declared freedom to the enslaved. It is a day of reflection and celebration, a day when we remember the struggle for freedom and the continued fight against racial inequality.

As we approach this year's Juneteenth, it is important to consider how we can make this day a national holiday. By doing so, we can honor the sacrifices of our ancestors and ensure that their legacy lives on for future generations.

To make Juneteenth a national holiday, we must take action. We must work together to advocate for the creation of a new federal holiday dedicated to the memory of Juneteenth. This holiday would be observed on June 19, the day that Union soldiers declared freedom to the enslaved.

The process of making Juneteenth a national holiday involves several steps. First, we must gather support from elected officials and community leaders. This could involve reaching out to our representatives in Congress and urging them to support the legislation.

Next, we must engage with our local communities and encourage them to join the movement. This could involve organizing Juneteenth events and spreading the word about the importance of making Juneteenth a national holiday.

Finally, we must continue to work until Juneteenth becomes a national holiday. This could involve renewing our efforts each year and staying vigilant in our advocacy.

By making Juneteenth a national holiday, we can honor the sacrifices of our ancestors and ensure that the legacy of Juneteenth lives on for future generations.