

**The State of Texas
County of El Paso
Presents:**

Know All Men By These

WHEREAS, in 1619 a Dutch ship docked at the port of Jamestown, Virginia and sold twenty Black Africans to English Colonist who had settled there. More than three million men, women and children eventually worked as slaves in the Deep South as a result of that singular transaction; and,

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, a document which stated that “All slaves held in States or parts of States engaged in war against the Federal Government shall be then, thenceforward and forever free; and,

WHEREAS, the day that Texas Slaves learned of their freedom became known as “Juneteenth” because actual emancipation for them occurred on June 19, 1865, two and one half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued; and,

WHEREAS, “Juneteenth” became an official Texas State holiday in 1980 and is celebrated in 126 cities across Texas, including El Paso; and,

WHEREAS, the history and culture of the African American people needs to be preserved to honor the dignity of its ancestry for generations to come; and,

WHEREAS, citizens of African descendants have lived in, have made, and continue to make significant contributions to the economy and quality of life of El Paso; and,

*WHEREAS, in recognition of the **Juneteenth Freedom Celebration** in El Paso and the past and present achievements of the County’s African American community, we honor and salute the African American churches and civic organizations who have served as guardians of a rich cultural legacy. We salute them for their humanitarian beliefs in the spirit of cooperation among all people.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners’ Court hereby proclaims the day of June 19, 2009 as

“JUNETEENTH”

and urges all citizens, regardless of race and ethnicity, to recognize and appreciate the many achievements and contributions being made by Black Americans throughout the land.

SIGNED this 15th day of June, 2009

Commissioner Annabell Perez, Pct. 1

Commissioner Veronica Escobar, Pct. 2

Commissioner Willie Gandara, Pct. 3

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

**Anthony Cobos
County Judge**