

**JUNETEENTH PROCLAMATION
BY MAYOR KEVIN FOY
CHAPEL HILL, NC
JUNE 20, 2008**

Whereas, all Americans should celebrate Juneteenth, a day more than 144 years ago on which the first time all people in the United States of America became legally free; and

Whereas, on June 19th, 1865 in Galveston, Texas Union soldiers led by General Granger brought the news of freedom two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1st, 1863; and

Whereas, the Juneteenth Celebration honors the history, progress, and perseverance of the African American people and all Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for precious freedom; and

Whereas, throughout the history of this observance, Juneteenth events across the nation promote a shared spirit within the community and foster greater awareness of African American heritage and roles in advancing equality among humankind and encouraging respect for all cultures; and

Whereas, The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Orange initiated the observance of Juneteenth celebration of freedom in Orange County for all freedom-loving people to embrace and come together as a community; and

Whereas, Juneteenth provides the Chapel Hill community an opportunity to honor those who fought for the freedom that all Americans share and it is fitting that we recognize historic moments leading to the full emancipation of African-Americans and all Americans enabling them to contribute to our nation's greatness; and

Now, Therefore, I, Kevin C. Foy, Mayor of the Town of Chapel Hill wish to declare June 20 2009, as

Juneteenth Day

Given under my hand and the seal of the Town of Chapel Hill on this the twentieth day of June, Two Thousand and Nine

Kevin C. Foy, Mayor