

Celebrating Fourth of July and Juneteenth

By Jeff Thomas

Editor's note: We are publishing this although Juneteenth has passed. Jeff Thomas enlightens by disclosing the unity in both celebrations, a unity that is beyond the months of June and July.

In the United States, two significant holidays reflect the nation's complex and diverse history: Juneteenth and the Fourth of July. While the Fourth of July has been celebrated by many Americans since the country's founding, Juneteenth has only recently gained recognition as a national holiday. Both days are deeply intertwined with the American values of freedom and liberty, and it is important for all Americans, including white Americans, to celebrate and understand the significance of both.

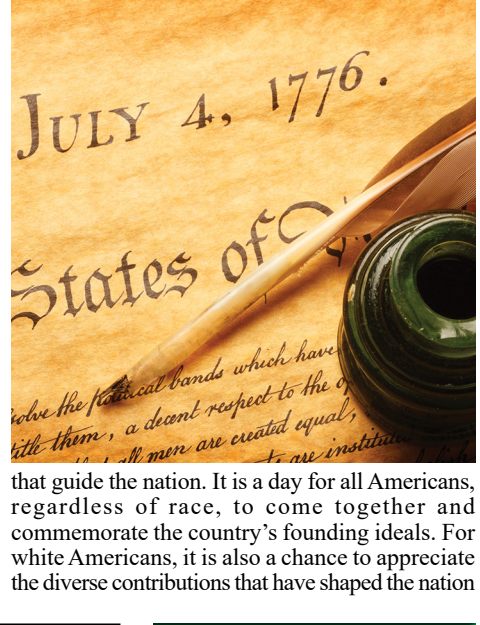
Juneteenth
Juneteenth, observed on June Nineteenth, commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, as decreed by the Emancipation Proclamation two

and a half years earlier. This day marks a pivotal moment in American history when the nation took a significant step toward fulfilling its foundational promise of liberty for all.

Fourth of July
The Fourth of July, or Independence Day, is celebrated on July Fourth and marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is a day that symbolizes the birth of the United States as an independent nation and the beginning of its journey toward democracy and freedom.

For white Americans, celebrating Juneteenth is an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans in the pursuit of equality and justice. It is a time to reflect on the ongoing struggle against racial injustice and to commit to the ideals of liberty and equality that benefit all citizens. By recognizing the significance of Juneteenth, white Americans can show solidarity with their fellow citizens and help foster a more inclusive and understanding society.

Similarly, the Fourth of July is a celebration of independence and the democratic principles



that guide the nation. It is a day for all Americans, regardless of race, to come together and commemorate the country's founding ideals. For white Americans, it is also a chance to appreciate the diverse contributions that have shaped the nation

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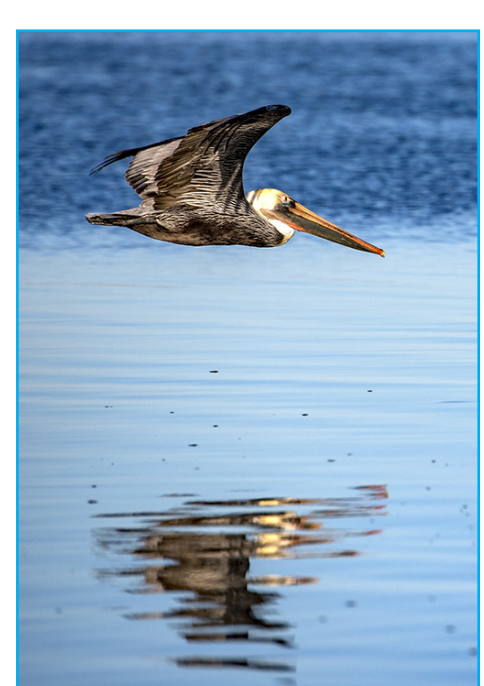
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Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, July 18, 2024, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>
Fee: Free; registration required
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Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, July 25, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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