



**TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237's PRESIDENT GREGORY FLOYD
and EXECUTIVE BOARD REMEMBERS and CELEBRATES**

Juneteenth marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. But the new law was not widely enforced by confederate holdouts in Texas. Two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger and his federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas. He told the enslaved people of the confederate state that they were now free. He shared the news that the Civil War was over and slavery in the United States had come to an end. Although the celebration of Juneteenth as a holiday began in Galveston in the 1860s, it took more than 150 years for it to become a national holiday. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act" making it an official designated national holiday.

In describing the holiday, former First Lady Michelle Obama may have said it best: "What I love about Juneteenth is that even in that extended wait, we still find something to celebrate. Even though the story has never been tidy, and Black folks have had to march and fight for every inch of our freedom, our story is nonetheless one of progress."