



May 2026

"What we're trying to get people to understand is that Juneteenth is freedom. And I don't mean just for Black people, or Texas people. It's freedom for everybody." - Opal Lee, "Grandmother of Juneteenth"

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and celebrates the enduring strength of Black culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been observed each June 19 since 1865, now recognized as a federal holiday and a cornerstone of American history.

Through your sponsorship, you are supporting the celebration of freedom for all Black-identifying Americans and the continued fight for equality in our country.

This year's celebration will feature a **multigenerational reading** of Frederick Douglass's *What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?* by local officials and community members, alongside food, dance, spoken word, music, a flag-raising ceremony, and a parade. All at Durant Park in Pittsfield's historically proud Westside neighborhood.

We hope you will sponsor this celebration and join us in person on June 21.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. Powell".

Dennis L. Powell, President
NAACP Berkshire County Branch

