



June 2021

## **NCR Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter #16**

### **Three - June Diversity and Inclusion Special Observances**

#### **What is Juneteenth?**

Juneteenth commemorates the day, June 19<sup>th</sup> 1865 that 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, and informed the remaining 250,000 enslaved Americans that the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln granted them freedom. The first Juneteenth was observed in 1866, and through the years Juneteenth has symbolized different things to different members of the Black community. Juneteenth, is a stepping stone to freedom for all African descendants and even non-Black people of color in the United States. All ethnic and racial backgrounds can observe this day.

Today, Juneteenth is growing within communities and organizations. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grows out working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us.

- *History of Juneteenth ©JUNETEENTH.com*

#### **June is Immigrant Heritage Month**

The celebration formally began in 2014 and seeks to give immigrants and refugees in our country the opportunity to explore and celebrate their background as well as to create awareness on how diversity and immigration are both essential elements of our social fabric.

Immigrant Heritage Month gives the people across the United States an opportunity to annually explore their own heritage and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of America.

(June 1, 2021) America is, always has been, and always will be a nation of immigrants. It was the premise of our founding; it is reflected in our Constitution; it is etched upon the Statue of Liberty — that “from her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome.” During National Immigrant Heritage Month, we reaffirm and draw strength from that enduring identity and celebrate the history and achievements of immigrant communities across our Nation.

Across each generation throughout our history, wave after wave of immigrants have enriched our Nation and made us better, stronger, more innovative, and more prosperous. The American story includes the story of courageous families who ventured here — be it centuries ago, or just this year — from every part of the world to seek new possibilities and help to forge our Nation. In every era, immigrant innovators, workers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders have fortified and defended us, fed us and cared for us, advanced the limits of our thinking, and broken new ground.

After an especially difficult period marked by both the COVID-19 pandemic and the all-too-frequent demonization of immigrants, it is vital that our Nation reflect on the leadership, resilience, and courage shown by generations of immigrant communities, and recommit ourselves to our values as a welcoming Nation. We recognize all of the workers, many of whom are immigrants, who have contributed to the food security, health, and safety of all Americans during this challenging year — and every year. And we honor the sacrifices made by immigrants who serve on the front lines of the pandemic as health care providers, first responders, teachers, grocers, farm workers, and other essential workers. It was these same immigrant families and communities of color who were disproportionately struck by the virus. In honor of those we’ve lost, let us dedicate ourselves as a Nation to protecting one another and doing our part to put an end to this pandemic for good.

The promise of our Nation is that every American has a fair shot and an equal chance to get ahead, yet systemic racism and persistent barriers have denied this promise to far too many immigrants throughout our history and today. I have placed equity at the center of my Administration’s agenda. From day one, I promised that my Administration would reflect the full diversity of our Nation — and today, nearly one-third of my Administration’s 1,500 political appointees are naturalized U.S. citizens or children of immigrants.

I have directed Federal agencies to rebuild trust in our immigration system that has been lost, to reach out to underserved communities unable to access the opportunities our Nation offers them, to offer again a welcoming

humanitarian hand to the persecuted and oppressed, and to reduce barriers to achieving citizenship and equality.

I am honored to serve alongside Vice President Harris, the first daughter of immigrants to hold the Office of the Vice President, and to work with so many dedicated public servants who are immigrants — and who carry with them every day the legacies of their families' sacrifice and resilience.

Despite the progress our nation has made since our founding, there is more work to be done to extend the full promise of America to all our people. Nearly 11 million people in this country are undocumented — and it is time that Congress acts by passing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, the immigration reform plan that I introduced on day one of my Presidency. My plan would provide a pathway to lawful permanent residency and citizenship for these undocumented immigrants, including Dreamers, individuals with Temporary Protected Status, farmworkers, and other essential workers who contribute to our Nation every day

Vice President Harris and I affirm that immigrants historically have made and continue to make our Nation stronger. I urge my fellow Americans to join us this month in celebrating immigrant heritage, stories, and cultures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as National Immigrant Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of immigrant communities throughout the generations following our Nation's founding, and to observe this month with appropriate programming and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

**JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.**

#### United States Immigrant Statistic

The United States has a larger immigrant population than any other country, 43 million immigrants. This represents 19.1% of the 244 million international migrants worldwide, and 14.4% of the U.S. population.

## **June is Pride Month**

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. --

The Department of Defense and MacDill Air Force Base joins the nation in paying tribute to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community during the month of June.

DoD Pride has chosen this year's theme, "Respect, dignity and service. Pride in all who serve." The month-long celebration demonstrates how LGBT Americans have strengthened our country.

The Stonewall Riots, also called the Stonewall Uprising, began on June 28, 1969 when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City.

The raid sparked a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents as police hauled employees and patrons out of the bar. Six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement followed.

The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

Throughout history, LGBT service members and civilians have bravely served and defended our country. Their commitment to service has made our military stronger and the nation safer. Diversity is more than race, gender, and ethnicity—it means diversity of thought, ability, background, language, culture and skill.

As we celebrate LGBT Pride Month, let us take PRIDE IN ALL WHO SERVE.

### **As CAP members, how can we be more inclusive?**

- Take part in respectful dialogue. This is an opportunity to better understand each other's perspective and journeys and foster inclusivity. Listen to people's stories when they are ready to share.
- Educate and celebrate each other's differences.

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