



Memorandum Sent On Behalf Of R. Jacob Cintron: Juneteenth Celebration Shall Be Recognized & Remembered

You may have already heard that the United States Congress and the President of the United States recently designated Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

The official signing and approval of the law occurred on June 17 and we recognize this important date as a District holiday. Given the short notice for employees to plan around taking time off, for this year, we will recognize / honor this holiday on Friday, July 2nd. Moving forward, we will adjust to recognize June 19th as a District holiday that will follow the same policies as other District holidays.

It is very important that we all recognize the significance and gravity of Juneteenth in American history. For context, on June 19, 1865, – 2,000 Union

Troops arrived in Galveston Bay Texas, and General Gordon Granger declared, “The people of the state of Texas are informed that, in accordance with the proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.” This is over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln took effect, and two months after the end of the civil war. The Emancipation Proclamation happened in January 1863, but the war continued until April 1865 when General Lee and the Confederate Army surrendered. Nonetheless, slavery in Texas continued unaffected until General Granger arrived on June 19th and declared slaves in Texas to be free. June 19th, Juneteenth, marks the date when the last of the slaves were actually declared free.



It is my hope that we will remember the precious human right of freedom that Juneteenth celebrates. When you enjoy your time off on July 2nd, take time to give thanks for the hard-fought victories of our ancestors to recognize that all of us are equal, with the right to breathe the righteous air of dignity and freedom. As one of the great civil rights activists, Fannie Lou Hamer used to say, "Nobody's free, until everybody's free."

Delivering Thanks That Lasts A Lifetime For New Mom & Son



UMC's Laura Mendoza, RN (left), Mom Jasmine, and Son Akil

It has been a year since Jasmine Maxwell welcomed her son, Akil, into her life -- but he arrived eight weeks earlier than expected. After an emergency Cesarean delivery (C-section) at the University Medical Center of El Paso, Akil was born.

It was a very exciting and dramatic time for Jasmine, and she has not forgotten the nurses at UMC, their high level of care and compassion they shared with her one year ago. In particular, UMC's Laura Mendoza, RN.

Jasmine stopped by UMC recently to tell Laura again, how thankful she is for the care and comfort she and her baby received.

"She was just amazing," said Jasmine, regarding Laura. "She was everything I needed at that time, and I know I will forever be grateful to her for what she did for me. I will never forget her. I wanted to stop by to say thank you."

Jasmine's son, after arriving two months early, weighing only 3.3 pounds, is now healthy and happy.

UMC is a Level 4 Maternal Designated Hospital -- that is the highest designation possible for maternal care. It is especially prepared to provide exceptionally great, critical care for new mothers and their arriving babies, whether on time or early.

UMC is also partnered with El Paso Children's Hospital and its Level 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Together, they are uniquely qualified to care for El Paso's newest moms and newest babies -- early or on schedule.

UMC Recognizes June's Significance As Pride Month

If you follow our Hospital on any social media platforms, you may have noticed that our logo changes with various holidays. For June, UMC changed its profile logo to represent a rainbow color symbolizing the recognition of June as Pride Month in tandem with thousands of other organizations.



Pride Month is currently celebrated each year during June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States, the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia, and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS.

At UMC, our mission "To Heal, To Serve, and To Educate" works in conjunction with the recognition of pride month as we will never turn away any patient in need of care for financial issues, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Check Out UMC's Better Health In The Borderland Podcast



Members of UMC's Rehab Team assist Adam Schoof during his recovery from his crash

Better Health in the Borderland, a podcast that covers a variety of healthcare successes and stories recently released a new podcast! The 5th Episode covers the story of a plane pilot, Adam Schoof who crashed his airplane while flying over Lordsburg, N.M., and received the highest level of trauma care in the region at UMC. You can download all podcasts of Better Health In The Borderland using the Apple Podcast, GoogleCast, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.