

1865

By Ebony Pollard

On June 19, 1865, word finally reached the last of our enslaved ancestors in Galveston, Texas:
“You are free. Slavery is no more.”

The message came late—two and a half years *after* the Emancipation Proclamation—
but freedom still found them.

Theirs is a legacy of survival and resistance,
of hope passed down through generations—
stitched into every Negro spiritual, every whispered prayer,
and every tear that watered the roots of our resilience.

So today, we celebrate freedom—theirs and ours.

We rest. We reflect. We rejoice.

And we remind this world:

We are still here, still Black, still free—upheld by the grit of our ancestors.