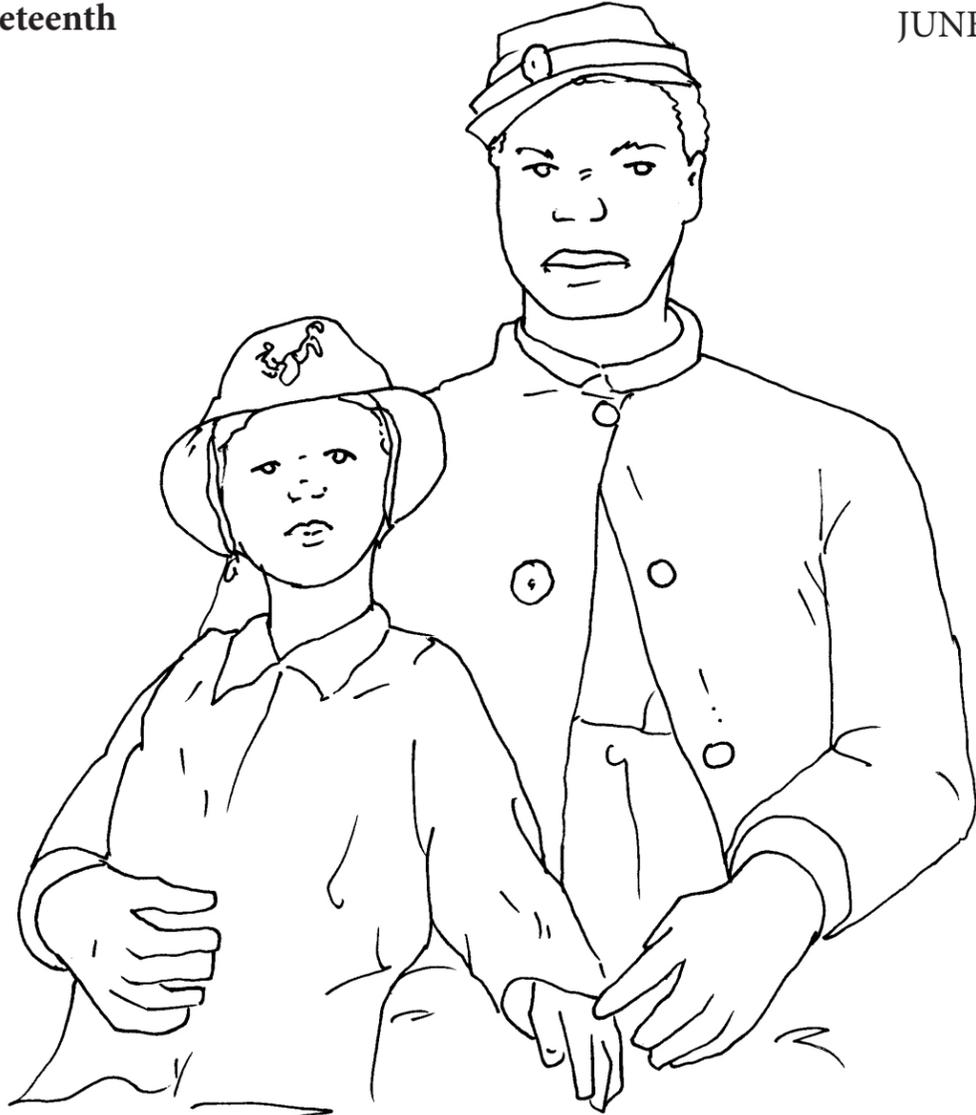


OBSERVANCE

Juneteenth

JUNE 19th

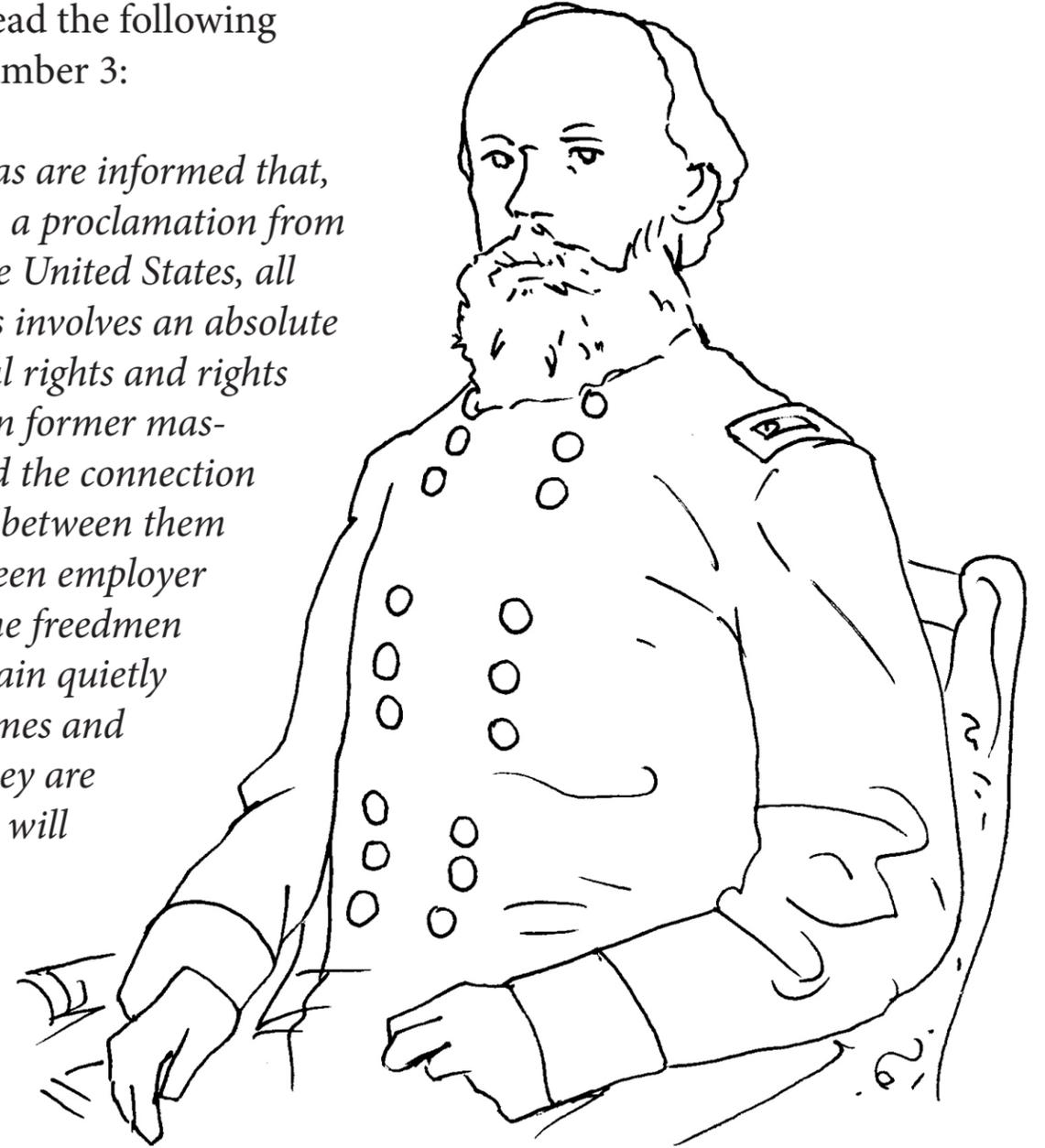


Juneteenth honors the day, in 1865, enslaved people of Galveston, Texas were informed that the Civil War had ended and they were free.

Juneteenth is the blending of the words June and nineteen. It is also known as Emancipation Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, and Black Independence Day.

When *Major General Granger Gordon* arrived in Galveston, he read the following General Order Number 3:

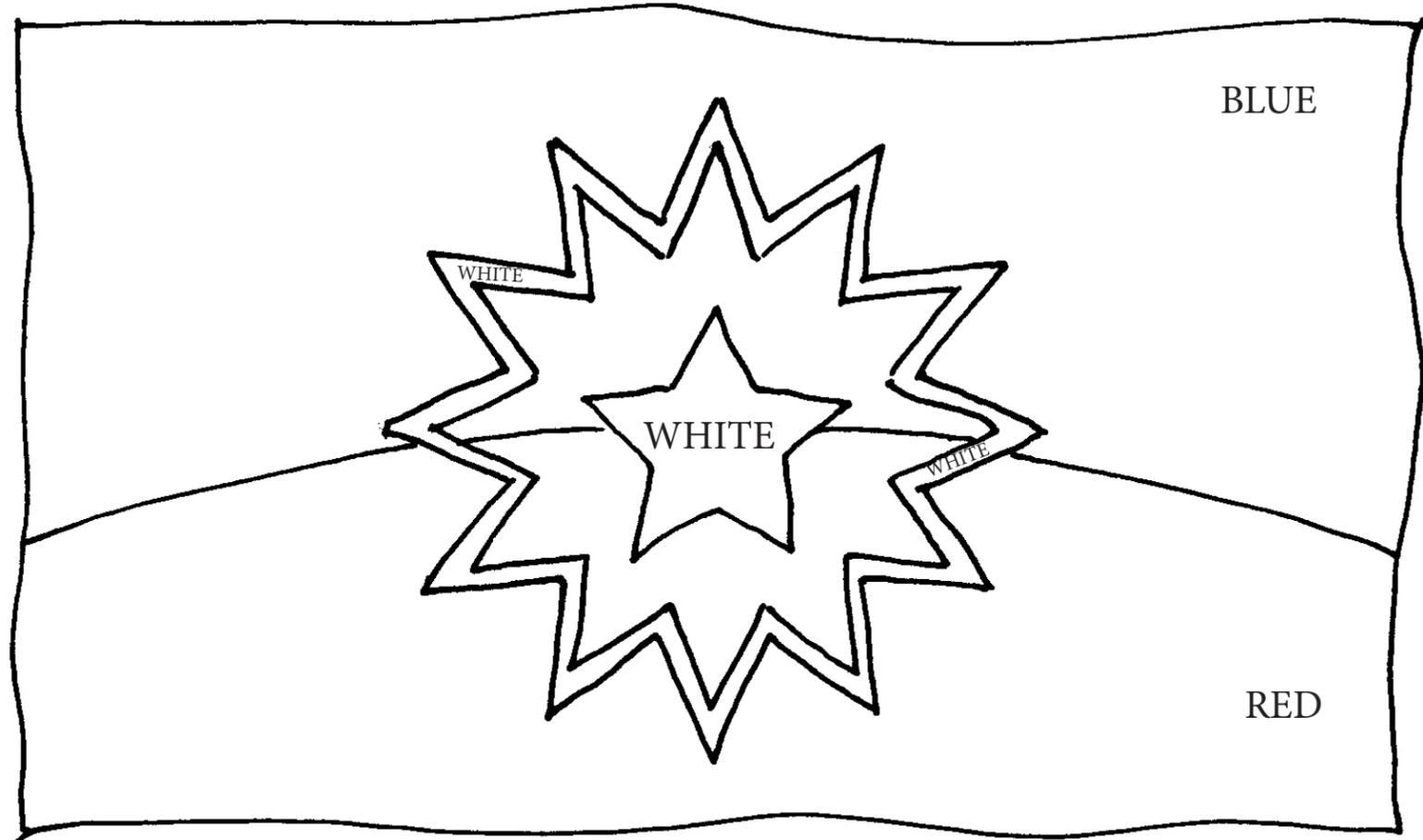
“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.”



THE JUNETEENTH FLAG

Ben Haith created the flag in 1997 with the help of collaborators. Illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf brought their vision to life.

Designing the flag and its symbols was a deliberate process, Haith said. Here's what each element of the flag represents.



The star

The white star in the center of the flag has a dual meaning. For one, it represents Texas, the Lone Star State. But the star also represents the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

The burst

The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star. On the Juneteenth flag, this represents a new beginning for the African Americans of Galveston and throughout the land.

The arc

The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.

The colors

The red, white and blue represents the American flag, a reminder that slaves and their descendants were and are Americans.