Washington, DC - Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement commemorating Juneteenth Independence Day, a day recognized across the southwest as the anniversary of emancipation:

"The events of this historic day in 1865 brought our country one step closer to delivering on the promise of our founding fathers - that all men are created equal. I'm proud to commemorate this day that honors two fundamental pillars of our democracy, freedom and equality. I not only encourage Texans but all Americans to use this holiday as an opportunity to recognize the tremendous progress our country has made in the civil rights arena while also renewing their commitment to future efforts to ensure equality in America."

On June 19, 1865, more than two full years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free.

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