

It is said, the year 1619 is the official time for the beginning of Slavery, however, the settling of the colonies included disenfranchised African people. There is no accurate count of how many African people were enslaved, but historians have estimated 6 to 7 million enslaved people were transported to America during the 18th century alone. There were millions before and after this period.

On April 12, 1861, The Union and Confederate Armies declared war and began the American Civil War. Nearly three years later to the date, when the fighting ended on April 9th, 1865 the result was dissolution of Confederate States, Slavery abolished, ratification of the 13th – 14th- and 15th amendments to the constitution, and the beginning of a new era. The ending of the civil war was the beginning of the Reconstruction period in American history.

Also, during the years of civil war, on January 1st, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing African Americans from slavery, thus making them eligible to fight in war and ensure union victory.

For two years after the civil war ended, 1865 to 1867, attempts were made to right the wrong of slavery by balancing the liberties and equality of African American freed from bondage. This was the period reconstruction, and to date, this two-year period remains the only collaborative effort made by US Government to rectify its wrongdoing upon humanity.

These notes in our history are important to recall, because in America, although battlefield fighting has stopped, the civil war in America continues.

The brief two-year attempt of reconstruction came to an appealing murderous halt, as white people in America overthrew the government (perhaps the first terrorist act in America), and began the new Jim Crow era. This act to overthrow the government has never been met as an act of aggression against the United States of America. What followed has been, and to this day is a strategic, systematic, political, militarized, social economic assault on “Black” people in the country. In other words, war.

For over 100 years, officially from 1865 to 1968, White Americans tormented and terrorized Black Americans religiously without accountability or repercussions.

August 5, 2020

Preamble:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty..." These words are untrue for many Americans. There is nothing from this country that says to its citizens or the world that this country, the United States of America is honoring its own Constitution in keeping its promise.

These words are also untrue for many Americans. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that *"all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* It is no secret that race relations in the United States is, at any given time, poor. It can easily be said regarding race relations in this country, the term "United States" can be deemed an oxymoron. Specifically, as it relates to African Americans, racial tension in this country remains high. Due to slavery and all subsequent events which followed, it is apparent that America has no intention of keeping her word. However, it is not only the past that is the issue, it is our present-day mindset and a thwarted hope for a better future. That is because "our" present and our past are bound to an unreconciled history.

Effectively nothing has been done in the way outward declaration of equality. How can we strive for racial reconciliation and equality when: There is no symbol of inclusion, no visible statement of equality, no supporting evidence of any efforts going forward, and there is no visible representation stating that our government acknowledges its part in our history of shame.

As a concerned citizen and community activist, I am writing with hope to gain your support in developing a bill for social/racial reconciliation.

The "bill," to be known as "Banner of Reconciliation," will signify the visible manifestation of all forms of governments willingness to recognize the history, contemporary lives, and future hopes of persons of African descent. This bill will signify the beginning of the United States effort to remember and rectify its misconduct and blatant disregard for human life as it has affected people of African Descent.

Dirrick Williams

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dirrick Williams". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Proposal:

I/we propose enactment of legislation that will make into law, an act to symbolize reconciliation, inclusion, acceptance, and admission, Flying the African American/ Pan African Flag.

Item One:

Part one,

Flying the African American Flag daily from January 1st of each year and until March 1st of each year, beginning January 1st, 2021.

1. To be flown at all Federal, State, and local government buildings, financial institutions, and all business and organizations who are, in any way, supported by any Federal, State, and local government funding.
2. At all times, to be flown at all schools (public and private.)
3. To be flown year-round at all post offices (symbolic to sending a message).

Part Two,

1. To be flown in remembrance of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation signed **January 1, 1863.**
2. In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, **February 12, 1809**
3. In celebration of Fredrick Douglass, who celebrated his birthday on **February 14th.**
4. To be flown in recognition of Martin Luther King Day, the **third Monday of each January.**
5. To be flown in respect to the death of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who signed the "Voting Rights Act" of 1965, whose **death occurred January 22, 1973.**
6. In celebration and support of **Black History Month, February of each year.**

Item Two:

Part One,

1. The order of use and display:

The United States Flag

The Pan-African Flag

States Flag

2. Wherever the United States Flag is flown, so should the Pan-African flag also fly.
3. The Pan-African flag shall be flown, red color at top position. (fines to be imposed)
4. All other flags to fly subsequent too, and in respect of this order (fines to be imposed)
5. At no time shall the Confederate flag be flown on the same staff/flagpole, or within 400 feet of the Pan-African flag (one foot for every year of slavery).
6. When raising or presenting the Pan-African flag, the African American National Anthem shall accompany (Lift every Voice and Sing)
7. As a national emblem, the Pan-African Flag shall receive the same honors, rights, and privileges as the United States flag.

Enactment:

The intent of this proposal is to make into law a bill that provides the equal display and protection, as described in the document, the use and flying of the Pan- African Flag as a symbol of admission, acceptance, inclusion and hope for reconciliation as it relates to race relations and the people of this country. And that this bill shall pass and be in effect January 1, 2021.

Notes:

Outside of the recognition of African American people, the basis and foundation supporting this bill will be the memory and honor of historical events and those who lived the events.

1. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation **January 1, 1863.**
2. Martin Luther King Day is the third Monday of every January.
3. Lyndon Baines Johnson, born August 27, 1908, Died: **January 22, 1973**
4. Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809
5. Although Fredrick Douglass was born into slavery and his actual birth date is unknown, it is believed he chose to commemorate his birthday on **February 14.**
6. President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965, with Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders present at the ceremony.
7. On August 13, 1920, the RED, BLACK and GREEN Flag was unveiled to the world by the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the members of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, of the World at its first international convention on **August 13, 1920.**
8. The meaning of the Pan-African flag colors:
Red: the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry and shed for liberation.
Black: black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the existence of the flag.
Green: the abundant natural wealth of Africa.