**For Immediate Release**

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**June 16, 2024**

**Friends to Commemorate Juneteenth**

**with Historic Walk from Galveston to Houston**

**Kansas City, MO** – In honor of Juneteenth, native-born Texan Frank Thompson and his friend Ken Johnston will embark on a 60-mile walk from the Gulf coast City of Galveston to Houston's Freedmen's Town. This journey aims to honor Freedom Seekers and explore the deep power of memory along Black heritage trails, such as the proposed Emancipation National Historic Trail.

The walk, starting June 18, 2024, will be Thompson’s first long-distance hike across his home state. Reflecting on this significant occasion, Thompson said, “For me, this walk is a chance to reconnect with my Texas roots, including ancestors who were likely part of the original Juneteenth exodus.”

Johnston, who initiated the Walk to Freedom project in 2018, emphasized, “Black heritage trails offer glimpses of a time past. This walk is about evoking the power of memory and honoring the resilient spirits of those who sought freedom.”

The Emancipation National Historic Trail Act, approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019, proposes a 51-mile trail from Galveston to Houston, following the path taken by newly freed slaves in 1865. The goal of the Juneteenth Walk the long-time friends are attempting commemorates the journey of American ancestors who labored without renumeration over the cotton rich lands of Texas before and after Emancipation.

Both friends are prepared for the challenging Texas heat, planning to start early each day and take frequent breaks and other precautions to protect themselves from the heat. Donations to support the walk can be made on the website [www.ourwalktofreedom.com](http://www.ourwalktofreedom.com)

**Schedule:**

**Tuesday June 18, 2024**

7-9 p.m. Texas City Museum [to the Bell Home, 1867 Settlement Historic District](https://www.texascitytx.gov/459/The-Bell-Home), 117 S Bell Dr, Texas City, 5.3 mi

**Wednesday June 19, 2024**

5-9:30 a.m. 1867 Settlement to Santa Fe, 10 mi

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Historic Emancipation March, [Reedy Chapel](https://reedychapel.com/), Galveston

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

5-9:30 a.m. Santa Fe to Friendswood, 17 mi

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. \*Visit to Magnolia Cemetery, the Dunbar School, & Moore’s Addition,

Town of Dickinson

7-8:30 p.m. Friendswood to nightfall, five miles

**Friday, June 21, 2024**

5-9:30 a.m. Friendswood to William P. Hobby Airport area, 13-miles

7-8:30 p.m. Hobby Airport to Good Hope Baptist Missionary Church, 3015 N MacGregor Way, about 10 miles.

**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

Rest day or walking to catch up with the schedule.

7-8:30 p.m. TBD to Good Hope Baptist Church

**Sunday, June 23, 2024**

 Rest day.

**Monday, June 24, 2024**

9:30 a.m. Walk to Freedom Community Day. Meet up with [Friends of Columbia Tap](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcolumbiatap) and [Fit Houston](https://www.fithouston.org/) for last four miles on trial adjacent to the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3015 N MacGregor Way, to [Emancipation Park](https://epconservancy.org/), 3018 Emancipation Ave, Houston, and [Freedmen's Town](https://freedmenstownmuseums.org/rutherford-b-h-yates-home/), 4 mi

\*Not part of walking tour

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