



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact** Bonnie Taylor 703.297.8554

**Northern Virginia Chamber celebrates Black American resilience and contributions ahead of Juneteenth**

*Leadership raises awareness of Juneteenth*

*Tysons Corner, Va.* – This week the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (Northern Virginia Chamber) commemorates the 156<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Juneteenth, a celebration of the freedom Black Americans gained following slavery and of Black American life and resilience and honoring the contributions of Black Americans to our country. Juneteenth reminds us that real change, though often frustrating and painful, is possible.

*“The battle towards racial equality continues and Juneteenth is an important moment in time when we celebrate the resilience and contributions of Black Americans,”* said **Kathryn Falk, Northern Virginia Chamber Board of Directors Chair**. *“We also take the day to support Black businesses and leaders in the region as a way to reaffirm our values with our actions.”*

The Northern Virginia Chamber has a long-standing commitment to ensuring the organization reflects the diversity of the region and advocates for an inclusive business climate that creates equitable access for all to thrive. Last year, the organization formed a Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Board of Advisors that put the organization’s values into impactful and swift action. The Board of Advisors reports to the Executive Committee which has operationalized DE&I as a core business priority during each meeting. In June 2020, the Northern Virginia Chamber reaffirmed this commitment by condemning systemic racism and expressing support for its community [in a statement reaffirming the organization’s values](#).

*“Even though it’s been 156 years since Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas declaring the abolition of slavery, Black Americans continue to face racial discrimination and inequality,”* said **John A.**

**Allen, Regional Bank President, Wells Fargo and co-chairman of the DE&I Board of Advisors.**

*“On this Juneteenth, we urge business leaders in our region to reflect and reaffirm commitments to lasting change and support the resilience and strength of Black businesses and leaders.”*

Learn [more about Juneteenth](#), [commemorations](#), and ways to [support Black-owned businesses](#).

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### **About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

Originally founded in 1925 as a Fairfax county-focused business advocacy organization, the Northern Virginia Chamber has grown into the region's largest Chamber of Commerce, impacting policy across the Greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region. Today, representing close to 500,000 employees, the diversity of our community is one of our greatest assets, offering opportunities to learn from one another and form personal connections that help guide lasting business growth.

The Chamber's goal is to be considered not only a business partner but also an agent of change for our members. We do this through our work in government advocacy, education through events and programs, networking, promotion of member businesses, and recognition through awards. We are proud to have worked together over these many years to build a meaningful association that enriches our community and look forward to continuing that good work.

For more information, visit [www.novachamber.org](http://www.novachamber.org).