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Public is invited as public officials and community leaders celebrate Juneteenth

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Members of the public are invited to “**Juneteenth, a Day of Remembrance,**” an event that will feature food vendors, games for the public such as baseball and soccer entertainment such as the Bouncing Bulldogs and the Jammers Cheerleaders, and remarks from government, civic and religious leaders.

The free event will take place **Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at **Morris Grove Elementary School, 215 Eubanks Road in Carrboro, N.C.** It is sponsored by Piedmont Health, the Boys & Girls Club/Pine Knolls Community Center, the Ministerial Alliance, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, Orange County Human Relations, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System and a number of other governmental entities and civic organizations.

A schedule for the day’s events is attached. For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Gloria Brown, 919-933-8494, or Ted Parrish, 919-370-9310.

Juneteenth is a celebration that originated in Galveston, Texas, when Union soldiers arrived on June 19th, 1865 to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves. Juneteenth, a shortening of “June 19th,” is the oldest known holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It is a partial or full holiday in various states across the nation and is even celebrated in some foreign countries such as Ghana and Japan.

The June 15 celebration in Carrboro will include remarks from Bishop Larry Reid of the Ministerial Alliance, Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton, State Rep. Larry Hall of Durham, and Rev. Robert Campbell, president of the Chapel-Hill Carrboro NAACP Chapter.

Gloria Brown, who is coordinating the event for Piedmont Health, said Morris Grove Elementary School was chosen to host the event because of its historical significance. “Morris Grove Elementary School was founded by Morris Hogan, a former slave. He was an active community member who embodied the spirit of freedom. So the event will help the public appreciate and value freedom – values that we still greatly need today.”

For more information about Piedmont Health, call 919-933-8494 or visit www.piedmonthealth.org.