

June 15, 2022



Dear Friends,

Juneteenth is the observed date of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Honoring the June 19, 1865 proclamation of freedom for enslaved people, it officially became a federal holiday last year to commemorate Black liberation, education and achievement. Each of us can reflect on how far we've come since and acknowledge that work still needs to be done in pursuit of equality and social equity.

We all have a role to play to continue to effect change – perhaps looking back to the innovators who came before can inspire us as we move forward.

In 1906, O.W. Gurley purchased land near Tulsa, Oklahoma, which would later become known as Black Wall Street. He rallied a community of entrepreneurs and built a thriving city center in Greenwood. Sadly, in 1921, a white mob burned down 35 once-bustling blocks in one of the most devastating acts of racial violence and domestic terrorism in the United States. The incident led to loss of life and livelihood. While some fled Tulsa, others stayed to not just rebuild their homes but to also rebuild community landmarks, like the Dreamland Theatre, Vernon AME Church and Mount Zion Baptist Church. (The latter two and other historic sites are open to visitors today.)

Ernesta Procope planted the first Black-owned business on Wall Street in New York when she moved her insurance business, E.G. Bowman, from Brooklyn in 1979. She became a powerful voice and advocate for insurance reform that offered fair coverage for low-income families.

Years later, Daymond John blazed another path when he started FUBU. The successful clothing brand has garnered \$8 billion as of 2022. Now, he's well-known as an angel investor on "Shark Tank," having invested millions of dollars to help promising entrepreneurs make their own dreams come true.

And we know we make a difference here at Raymond James and in our communities across the country. We are proud to work with a firm that is fostering systemic and lasting change and has committed to creating and increasing opportunities for diverse communities through financial literacy, mentorship, and representation.

As always, we are available to discuss your goals as well as the ways you'd like to make a difference in the world.

## Announcements:

- Please note that our offices, along with the financial markets, will be closed Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Juneteenth. Of course, you can access your account(s) using Client Access at any time, year-round.
- ***Shredding Day 2022*** is here! Join us on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am-11:00am behind our Augusta Office. We will have donuts and coffee rain or shine! No RSVP required.
- ***June is PRIDE month!*** We believe inclusion brings together diverse talents and viewpoints. Many events will be taking place across the country this month to celebrate and raise awareness around issues facing the LGBTQ+ community. Search online to find an event near you, then dig out your best rainbow gear!

Warm regards,



Peter L. Mendall, CFP®

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Ryan Bean, Financial Advisor

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