

# Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** 250 years ago, on April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with clashes in Massachusetts at Lexington and Concord, where “the shot heard round the world” marked the first stand in the fight for independence and the birth of a nation founded on liberty and self-governance; and
- Whereas,** in response to the clashes in Lexington and Concord, members of the Berkeley County Rifle Company, a militia unit and precursor of the West Virginia National Guard, constituted of 98 militiamen, marched from their home base of Mecklenburg, Virginia (now Shepherdstown, West Virginia) to Boston in the space of 25 days in July and August of 1775, an event known as the Beeline March; and
- Whereas,** the brave men and women who stood against tyranny, known as the Patriots, risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor in the pursuit of freedom, laying the foundation for the United States of America; and
- Whereas,** it is fitting to reflect upon and celebrate the freedoms secured through their struggle, to educate future generations about the values of perseverance and unity, and to reaffirm our commitment to upholding these ideals; and
- Whereas,** the citizens of West Virginia cherish the freedoms and rights established by our nation’s founders, and proudly affirm the contributions and sacrifices of our fellow West Virginians in this sacred history; and
- Whereas,** *Patriots’ Day* serves as an opportunity to express gratitude for the blessings of liberty.


**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 19, 2025*, as:

## *Patriots’ Day*


in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Nineteenth Day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

  
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**Patrick Morrisey**  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
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**Kris Warner**  
Secretary of State