

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

Whereas, the United States is a nation founded on the principles of faith, individual liberty, profound courage, and perseverance in the face of great odds; and

Whereas, on August 3, 1451, Christopher Columbus set out from Spain under the charge of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to discover a new trade route to Asia and to convey with him the Christian faith to lands hitherto unknown to European states; and

Whereas, two months later, on October 12, 1492, following a perilous journey on three ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria—Columbus reached the shores of the “New World” when he arrived in the modern-day Bahamas and immediately dedicated the land to God and began the process of exploring and documenting his findings; and

Whereas, Columbus’ voyage made Europe aware of a vast new continent to the West, and kicked off decades of exploration and efforts to bring European laws, faith, food, and technology to the New World and to return to Europe with undiscovered crops like corn, tomatoes, and potatoes which have since become staples of worldwide cuisine in what is now called the Columbian Exchange; and

Whereas, subsequent European expeditions would give the New World its name—the Americas—and would initiate the westward expansion of European colonies that would eventually become the United States of America; and

Whereas, the spirit of Columbus’ daring odyssey across the Atlantic would continue to live on in the heroic exploits of American settlers traversing the Appalachian and Oregon trails, and in American folk heroes like Lewis and Clark, Daniel Boone, and Kit Carson; and

Whereas, West Virginia Code Section 2-2-1(a)(8) recognizes Columbus’ contributions to the Americas by designating the second Monday of October as “Columbus Day” and a legal holiday in West Virginia; and

Whereas, despite being a vital part of American history, the historic voyage of Christopher Columbus and the legacy of his exploits have been the target of a deliberate and relentless campaign to tarnish American heroes and portray American history as an object of shame; and

Whereas, this *Columbus Day* marks the 533rd anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival in the New World, and his legacy remains a vital part of American history, with his courage, faith, and resolve continuing to be celebrated.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 13, 2025*, as:

Columbus Day

in the Mountain State and invite all West Virginians to join in celebration of our nation’s heroes and history.

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 Thirteenth of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:

Kris Warner
Kris Warner
Secretary of State