

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2025, President Donald J. Trump directed the Secretary of Defense to mobilize the District of Columbia National Guard to active service “to address the epidemic of crime” in Washington, D.C, evidenced “by the two embassy staffers who were murdered in May, the Congressional intern who was fatally shot a short distance from the White House in June, and the Administration staffer who was mercilessly beaten by a violent mob” in August, *see* PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM, RESTORING LAW AND ORDER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/restoring-law-and-order-in-the-district-of-columbia/>; and

WHEREAS, the President also directed the Secretary of Defense “to coordinate with State Governors and authorize the orders of any additional members of the National Guard to active service, as he deems necessary and appropriate, to augment this mission,” *see id.*; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Defense conveyed this request to several states’ governors—including the Governor of the State of West Virginia—through the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the state’s respective adjutants general; and

WHEREAS, in response to President Trump’s request, on August 16, 2025, the Governor of the State of West Virginia announced that he was mobilizing between three to four hundred members of the West Virginia National Guard to active service in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that announcement, members of the West Virginia Air National Guard and Army National Guard mobilized to Washington, D.C., to assist federal law enforcement agencies, National Guard units from other states, and the D.C. Metropolitan Police in securing the nation's capital city including assisting with national monument security, traffic control points, and law enforcement patrols; and

WHEREAS, in answering the call to service, the West Virginia National Guard joined a Joint Task Force of over 2,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard from other parts of the country including from the District of Columbia, Ohio, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama who all came to Washington, D.C. to make the nation's capital safe, secure, and beautiful; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant ("SSgt") Andrew Wolfe from Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Specialist ("SPC") Sarah Beckstrom from Summersville, West Virginia were among the courageous and dedicated men and women who volunteered to be part of this Joint Task Force; and

WHEREAS, SSgt Wolfe is a twenty-four-year-old member of the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Force Support Squadron, who has served in the National Guard for six years; and

WHEREAS, SPC Beckstrom was a twenty-year-old member of the West Virginia Army National Guard's 863rd Military Police Company, who served in the National Guard for two years; and

WHEREAS, around 2:15 p.m. on November 26, 2025—the day before Thanksgiving—both SSgt Wolfe and SPC Beckstrom were honorably and dutifully engaged in the Joint Task Force's support and security efforts close to the White House, in the vicinity of the Farragut West Metro Station area in downtown in Washington, D.C., when they were maliciously ambushed and shot; and

WHEREAS, the decisive action by other members of the National Guard and other law enforcement officers helped neutralize and apprehend the shooter—preventing him from committing further acts of despicable violence; and

WHEREAS, both SSgt Wolfe and SPC Beckstrom were rushed to the hospital; but in the late evening of November 27, 2025—Thanksgiving Day—SPC Beckstrom tragically passed away from the wounds she sustained during the attack; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of West Virginia wish to condemn the cowardly and evil attack on SSgt Wolfe and SPC Beckstrom, to mourn the terrible loss of SPC Beckstrom, to honor both of these young West Virginians’ service to the State of West Virginia and to the United States of America, and to preserve these heroes, their families, and their comrades in the National Guard in thought and prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that all United States flags and West Virginia flags displayed on all State-owned facilities throughout West Virginia shall be lowered to half-staff beginning at noon on November 28, 2025, and to remain there until sunset on December 31, 2025, to mourn the loss of SPC Beckstrom and honor her service to the State of West Virginia and the United States; and do hereby **REQUEST** that all citizens of the State of West Virginia join me in observing a moment of silence or prayer beginning at 2:15 p.m. on Friday, November 28, 2025, to honor SSgt Wolfe and SPC Beckstrom, their families, and all the brave men and women of the West Virginia National Guard.

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 in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Twenty-Eighth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-



By the Governor

Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third
Year of the State.

Patrick Morisy
GOVERNOR

Kris Warner
SECRETARY OF STATE