

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** the 1782 Robert Aitken Bible represents a pivotal milestone in American history as the first English-language Bible printed in the United States, symbolizing the nation's early commitment to religious liberty and the dissemination of sacred texts; and
- Whereas,** this rare artifact, endorsed by the Continental Congress for use in schools and public life, underscores the foundational role of the Bible in shaping the moral and educational fabric of the American Republic, including the values that influenced the formation of West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** the public display of an original 1782 Robert Aitken Bible at the West Virginia State Capitol provides a unique opportunity for citizens to connect with their heritage, fostering appreciation for the historical interplay between faith, governance, and community in the Mountain State; and
- Whereas,** the Bible has served as a timeless source of wisdom, comfort, and ethical guidance for generations of West Virginians, inspiring acts of charity, justice, and resilience in times of hardship and prosperity alike; and
- Whereas,** recognizing the Day of the Bible honors the enduring influence of Scripture on literature, law, and culture, reminding us of its contributions to principles such as equality, compassion, and human dignity that are enshrined in our state's motto, "Montani Semper Liberi" (Mountaineers Are Always Free); and
- Whereas,** the exhibition of the 1782 Robert Aitken Bible invites educational engagement, allowing students, families, and visitors to explore its historical context and the role of faith in America's founding, thereby enriching public understanding and civic pride; and
- Whereas,** proclaiming the Day of the Bible affirms West Virginia's dedication to preserving religious freedoms and cultural treasures, ensuring that future generations may draw inspiration from this sacred text and its profound impact on our shared history and values.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *January 22, 2026*, as:

Day of the Bible at the West Virginia Capitol

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 Twenty-Second Day of January, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State