

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** on June 20, 1863, West Virginia was admitted to the Union as the 35th State, marking a historic moment in our Nation's history and establishing a legacy of resilience, independence, and determination; and
- Whereas,** in anticipation of our nation's Semiquincentennial, we proudly recognize that the roots of West Virginia's indomitable spirit were planted during the American Revolution, when brave patriots answered the call of liberty and undertook the historic 1775 "Bee Line March," from Shepherdstown to reinforce General George Washington; and
- Whereas,** the very frontiers of the Mountain State served as a vital bulwark for American independence, where the heroic defense of Fort Henry and Betty Zane's legendary gunpowder run demonstrated the profound courage of our early settlers; and
- Whereas,** during one of the most challenging periods in American history, the creation of West Virginia reflects the courage, vision, and unwavering commitment of those who sought self-governance and opportunity for future generations; and
- Whereas,** for 163 years, the people of the Great State of West Virginia have demonstrated extraordinary strength through their contributions to industry, agriculture, education, public service, military service, arts and culture, and the preservation of our State's rich traditions and heritage; and
- Whereas,** in 1927, the West Virginia Legislature established "West Virginia Day" as a legal state holiday in recognition and celebration of the state's founding; and
- Whereas,** the Mountain State is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty, from the rolling hills and winding rivers to the scenic mountains that have inspired generations of residents and visitors alike; and
- Whereas,** West Virginians continue to embody the values of hard work, neighborly compassion, perseverance, and community spirit that have defined our State since its founding, proudly living by our State motto: Montani Semper Liberi—Mountaineers Are Always Free, and enduringly guided by the motto of the Governor's seal, Libertas E Fidelitate—Freedom and Loyalty; and
- Whereas,** in conjunction with West Virginia's statewide America250 initiatives and ceremonies, West Virginia Day provides an opportunity to celebrate our history, honor those who have shaped our State, and inspire future generations to continue building a brighter future for all who call West Virginia home.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *June 20, 2026*, as:

West Virginia 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 Eighteenth Day of June, 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