

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** Katherine Johnson was born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and remained a proud daughter of the Mountain State throughout her extraordinary life; and
- Whereas,** Katherine Johnson's brilliant career as a mathematician at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spanned 35 years, during which she mastered the complex manual calculations, launch windows, and emergency return paths essential to the success of the early space program, the first moon landing, and the start of the Space Shuttle program; and
- Whereas,** as an African-American woman, she broke barriers of race and sex, proving that talent and determination can change the course of history; and
- Whereas,** Ms. Johnson was the first African-American woman to integrate the graduate school at West Virginia University and went on to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, the nation's highest civilian honor; and
- Whereas,** her remarkable life was famously featured in the book and film *Hidden Figures*, bringing global recognition to her pivotal contributions to American aeronautics; and
- Whereas,** in April 2017, the West Virginia Legislature officially established August 26, the anniversary of her birth, as "Katherine Johnson Day" to honor her lasting legacy in math and science; and
- Whereas,** in December 2018, following efforts by West Virginia State and Federal leaders, and signed into law by the President of the United States, the NASA Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) facility in Fairmont was renamed the Katherine Johnson Independent Verification and Validation Facility in recognition of her revolutionary work.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 26, 2026*, as:

Katherine Johnson 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 Twenty-Fourth Day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State