STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV was born in New York City on June 18, 1937, attended Phillips Exeter Academy, studied at the International Christian University in Tokyo from 1957 to 1960, and graduated from Harvard University in 1961 with a degree in Asian languages and history; and

WHEREAS, Jay Rockefeller came to West Virginia in 1964 as an anti-poverty volunteer in the Kanawha County community of Emmons—an experience that shaped his long career in public service—and he made West Virginia his home and raised his four children here; and

WHEREAS, the people of Kanawha County elected Jay Rockefeller to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1966, and the people of West Virginia elected him Secretary of State in 1968, after which he served as president of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon; and

WHEREAS, Jay Rockefeller was elected the twenty-ninth Governor of West Virginia in 1976 and reelected in 1980, leading the State through heavy snowfalls, fuel shortages, floods, a 111-day coal strike, and a deep recession; and

WHEREAS, during his administration, Governor Rockefeller reorganized large segments of State government into departments that included the Department of Health and the Department of Culture and History, created a Department of Economic and Community Development, and advocated for legislation to phase out the State's three percent sales tax on food; and

WHEREAS, the people of West Virginia elected Jay Rockefeller to the United States Senate in 1984, and he served from January 15, 1985, until his retirement in January 2015, chairing several committees including the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

WHEREAS, Jay Rockefeller persuaded Toyota to build a manufacturing plant in Putnam County and was among those who aided the 1984 employee buyout of Weirton Steel; and

WHEREAS, Jay Rockefeller died at his home on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at the age of eighty-nine; and

WHEREAS, Jay Rockefeller is survived by his wife, Sharon Percy Rockefeller, and their four children, and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of West Virginia mourn the loss of Senator Rockefeller—who served the people of this State for nearly five decades—and desire to recognize his dedicated public service to the State.

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 the United States and West Virginia State flags displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and on all State facilities throughout West Virginia, be lowered to half-staff beginning at noon on Friday, November 6, 2026, and to remain there until sunset on Friday, November 13, 2026, to honor the life and legacy of John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV.

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 Sixth Day of November, 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