# STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## At Charleston

## A PROCLAMATION

## By the Governor

**WHEREAS,** in the summer of 2025, at the request of President Donald J. Trump, 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 support efforts 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, a member of the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Force Support Squadron, was then twenty-four years old and had served in the National Guard for six years; and

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

**WHEREAS,** around 2:15 p.m. on November 26, 2025—the day before Thanksgiving—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 when they were maliciously ambushed and shot; and

**WHEREAS,** the decisive action of other members of the National Guard and 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,** SPC Beckstrom has since been posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant ("SGT"), and both she and SSgt Wolfe were awarded the Purple Heart and the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS,** Thursday, November 26, 2026, Thanksgiving Day, marks one year since SSgt Wolfe and SGT Beckstrom were attacked while serving in the nation's capital; and

**WHEREAS,** on the anniversary of this cowardly and evil attack on SSgt Wolfe and SGT Beckstrom, the citizens of the State of West Virginia wish to honor both of these young West Virginians' service to the State of West Virginia and to the United States of America, and to hold these heroes, their families, and their comrades in the National Guard in thought and prayer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY,** pursuant to the foregoing and by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that, in remembrance of the November 26, 2025, attack on SSgt Andrew Wolfe and SGT Sarah Beckstrom, the United States and West Virginia State flags displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities in each of West Virginia's fifty-five counties, be lowered to half-staff beginning at sunrise on Thursday, November 26, 2026, and to

remain there until sunrise on Friday, November 27, 2026; and do hereby **REQUEST** that all citizens of the State of West Virginia join me in observing a moment of prayer and silence at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, November 26, 2026, the time of the attack one year ago, to honor SSgt Wolfe and SGT 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-Fifth 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**

Kris Warner

**SECRETARY OF STATE**