

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the strength of our State and our Nation lies in the towns, small and large, that make up this Great Country; and
- Whereas,** the iconic song “*Take Me Home Country Roads*” is not just an anthem for the Mountain State, but a profound expression of love for hometowns that is celebrated around the world; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia has a tradition of leading the Nation in the honoring and celebrating the forces of love and goodness that unite and enrich our Nation and the world, including the examples of Mother’s Day, which the State of West Virginia was first to recognize in 1912, and Father’s Day which was first celebrated in Fairmont in 1908; and
- Whereas,** the common experiences we share as we grow up in our hometowns remain an integral part of our lives, regardless of the corner of the globe where we may reside; and
- Whereas,** our hometowns remind us that what we have in common is far greater and more important than anything that may divide us; and
- Whereas,** the essence of democracy is exhibited in our towns, cities and neighborhoods where people work together to build and sustain the local government, small business, philanthropic, religious, volunteer, youth sports, and cultural enterprises that enrich our nation; and
- Whereas,** the absence of a designated day in our state and the nation to honor our hometowns is an oversight that deserves to be addressed; and
- Whereas,** it is vitally important that we appreciate the power of hometowns to help us overcome divisions and renew friendships and enhance civil discourse; and
- Whereas,** every citizen, community, business, civic institution, fraternal organization, and other group should have the opportunity to celebrate annually the unique attributes and history of their hometowns; and
- Whereas,** the City of Nitro, whose native son, Dan McGinn, first conceived the “*Honor Your Hometown*” campaign to honor his hometown, was the first city in the nation to pass a resolution calling for a permanent day of celebration of hometowns, and “*Honor Your Hometown*”; and
- Whereas,** the momentum for a permanent national celebration of hometowns is growing exponentially as evidenced by a social media campaign led by Dolly Parton, Ken Burns, Marty Stuart, Kathy Mattea, Garth Brooks, Mayors from all 50 States, the national VFW and American Legion organizations, the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, Mountain Stage, and scores of prominent individuals, cultural and historical institutions, presidential libraries, and citizens.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 28-29, 2023** as:

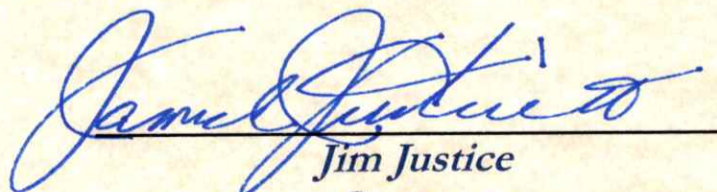
Honor Your Hometown Weekend

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 Fifth Day of October, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First Year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State