

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, James Kemp McLaughlin was born on the seventh day of December, Nineteen Hundred Eighteen, in Braxton County, West Virginia, the son of Almira Ballengee McLaughlin and former Commissioner of Agriculture, James Blaine McLaughlin; and

**WHEREAS**, James McLaughlin graduated from Charleston High School and went on to graduate from West Virginia University before joining the Army Air Corp, shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant James McLaughlin was assigned to the 92<sup>nd</sup> heavy bombardment group of the Eighth Air Force, one of the first American units to see combat during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain James McLaughlin piloted the lead bomber in a mission against the ball-bearing works in Schweinfurt, Germany in October of Nineteen Hundred Forty-three, and participated in bombing facilities in Norway which were crucial in the German attempts to develop an atomic bomb in November of Nineteen Hundred Forty-three; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain James McLaughlin had obtained a rank of Lieutenant Colonel by war's end, he had flown Thirty-nine combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three clusters, the U.S. Army Air Corps Air Medal with eight clusters, the French Croix de Guerre, and a Presidential Unit Citation; and

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel James McLaughlin founded the West Virginia Air National Guard and led the squadron on active duty in the Korean War in Nineteen Hundred Fifty-one; following his service in Korea he was promoted to full colonel and in Nineteen Hundred Sixty-two was appointed assistant adjutant general with promotion to brigadier general; and

**WHEREAS**, Brig. General James McLaughlin served as Kanawha County Commissioner from Nineteen Hundred Sixty-two through Nineteen Hundred Sixty-eight and was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from Nineteen Hundred Seventy-four through Nineteen Hundred Seventy-six; and

**WHEREAS**, Brig. General James McLaughlin served his community as President of the Charleston Exchange Club, Chairman of the Kanawha Clay Chapter of the American Red Cross, a board member of the Salvation Army; he founded Elk Hills Memorial Park, and was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Charleston; and

**WHEREAS**, Brig. General James McLaughlin, a committed and respected public servant and a devoted father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend and neighbor, died on the Sixteenth day of December, Two Thousand Nineteen; and

**WHEREAS**, Brig. General James McLaughlin is survived by his son, James Kemp (Mary) McLaughlin, Jr; daughter, Laura Evans McLaughlin; grandchildren, James Blaine McLaughlin, II and Elizabeth McLaughlin Smith; great grandchildren, Preston Andrew Smith and Bailey Elizabeth Smith; he was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Constance Bailey McLaughlin; sisters, Mary Virginia McLaughlin and Elinor McLaughlin; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia, friends, and associates of Brig. General James McLaughlin desire to recognize his dedicated public service to the Great State of West Virginia, and to acknowledge his valuable contributions to the State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that, in commemoration of the distinguished life and service of West Virginia Brig. General James Kemp McLaughlin, that all United States flags and West Virginia flags displayed on all State-owned facilities throughout West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on the Twenty-third day of December, Two Thousand Nineteen, the day of services celebrating his life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



**By the Governor**

**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Nineteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Seventh year of the State.

*James Justice*  
**GOVERNOR**

*Mac Warner*  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**