

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

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, William P. "Bill" Stafford was born on August 3, 1933, in Princeton, West Virginia, the son of the late Elbert L. and Willie Waddell Stafford; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Stafford was a 1952 graduate of Princeton High School. After completing high school, he studied dye and toolmaking at the US Naval Ordnance Laboratory and the US Naval Gun factory, where he completed a four-year apprenticeship and was a certified journeyman machinist; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Stafford founded Princeton Machinery Service Inc. and retired as president and chairman, he was the retired chairman of First Community Bankshares, Inc., president of the H. P. and Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation, president of Melrose Enterprises, Ltd., and the principal of Stafford Farms, LLC.; and

**WHEREAS**, Delegate Bill Stafford served for 17 years as a Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and as a Member of the House of Delegates in the West Virginia Legislature, and he served on countless other county and state government boards and commissions and numerous charitable organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Delegate Bill Stafford previously held both private and commercial aircraft pilot licenses and immensely enjoyed flying. He was a 53-year member of Concord Lodge No. 48 A.F. & A.M. and the Beni Kedem Shrine; and

**WHEREAS**, Delegate Bill Stafford was a lifelong member of First Methodist Church of Princeton, he was an avid outdoorsman and held life-long interest in wildlife preservation, agriculture, horticulture, and Saddlebred horses; and

**WHEREAS**, Delegate Bill Stafford is preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Ann Hunnicutt “Dink” Stafford; a son, Luther P. “Luke” Stafford; a grandson Joseph H. “Jake” Stafford, II; and three siblings, Phyllis D. Stafford, Jack D. Stafford, and G. Michael Stafford. Delegate Bill Stafford is survived by sons, William P. Stafford, II and wife Pam; Joseph H. Stafford and wife Stephanie; and four grandchildren, Sarah A. Stafford, Abigail L. Stafford, Emily E. Stafford, and W. Perry Stafford, III and wife Kayla; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia, friends, and associates of Delegate Bill Stafford 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 Delegate William P. “Bill” Stafford, the United States and West Virginia State flags displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities throughout Mercer County, West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on March 23, 2023, 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.



**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Second Day of March, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth Year of the State.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Justice".

**GOVERNOR**

**By the Governor**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mac Warner".

**SECRETARY OF STATE**