

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

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard was born on July 22, 1985, in South Williamson, Kentucky, to parents Steven Walter Maynard and Leslie Cather Maynard; and

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, June 2, 2024, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard, a 15-year veteran of the West Virginia State Police, lost his life in the line of duty while selflessly protecting the citizens of Mingo County and all of West Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard graduated from Belfry High School in Belfry, Kentucky, in 2003, then went on to graduate from the West Virginia State Police 58<sup>th</sup> Academy Cadet Class in May of 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard began working at an early age at Food City, with his wife, Rachel, where he formed many relationships that lasted his lifetime; he was a proud patriot of “Merica,” an avid fan of baseball, especially the Baltimore Orioles, and he loved traveling to Ireland and listening to jazz music; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard was first stationed in Martinsburg before being transferred back to Williamson in order to be closer to his parents; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard was awarded the West Virginia State Police Lifesaving Award in 2015 for saving a suspect’s life after a dangerous pursuit; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard is survived by his wife, Rachel Maynard; his two children, Zoe Aislinn and Finnegan Cory Maynard; two sisters, Patricia (Cole) Bennett and Sara Maynard (Ian Putnam); his nieces and nephews, Piper and Landon Bennett, Logan and Merritt Duncan, and Graham Putnam; his parents, Steven Walter Maynard and Leslie Cather Maynard; his parents-in-law, Gary and Gina Duncan; and one brother-in-law, Richard (Sarah) Duncan; and he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Billie Owens, Juanita and Lester Cather, and Janice and Walter Maynard; and one aunt, Ethel Jo Cather; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard was a devoted law enforcement officer, a loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend, and he will long be remembered for his dedication to those he loved and served, for his generous heart, and for always lending a helping hand; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Maynard's tragic killing sent shock waves throughout the law enforcement community and the citizenry of the State of West Virginia, which led to an outpouring of grief and compassion from West Virginians near and far; and

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia State Police officers play an essential role in safeguarding the safety, rights, and freedoms of the citizens of this State, often at their own peril, and the dedication and bravery of Sergeant Maynard throughout his career, which ultimately led to his supreme sacrifice for his community, brings honor to his family and friends, all members of the West Virginia State Police family, the citizens of Mingo County, and the entire State of West Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, all West Virginians mourn the tragic loss of this brave young law enforcement officer who gave his life to protect his fellow man and to advance the common good, and sympathy on their behalf is extended to his children and loved ones, to his many friends, to members of the West Virginia State Police family with whom he served faithfully and honorably, and to all those who knew and loved him; and

**WHEREAS**, immediately following this incident, the State of West Virginia lowered both the United States and West Virginia flags to half-staff by Proclamation issued on the Second Day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, to honor this brave man who was dedicated to protecting the citizens of the State of West Virginia;

**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 Sergeant Cory Steven Maynard, the United States flag and West Virginia State flag on all State-owned facilities be displayed at half-staff, beginning immediately. The flags are to remain at half-staff through the day of services celebrating his life, on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

**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, on this the Second Day of June, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth Year of the State.



**By the Governor**

*Jim Justice*  
**GOVERNOR**

*Mac Warner*  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**