

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

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Corporal Howard Godwin, Jr., 22, of Grafton, West Virginia, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for June 26, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Howard Godwin, Jr. was the son of the late Howard D. and Estel Godwin, born on May 28, 1928, in Grafton, West Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Godwin, Jr. enlisted in the United States Army on February 5, 1948, and in July 1950, Corporal Godwin, Jr. was a member of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 34 Infantry Regiment, and 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Corporal Howard Godwin, Jr. was reported missing in action July 20, 1950, while fighting against the North Korean forces in the Taejon area of South Korea, and was declared non-recoverable in January 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Godwin, Jr. was posthumously promoted to Corporal on May 1, 1953, Corporal Godwin's awards and decorations included the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time of Corporal Godwin Jr.'s death, he was survived by his parents and siblings Ronald, Dale, Norma, Delberta, and Dianna; In addition to his parents, Dale and Norma have since passed away; and

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Godwin Jr.'s family members were notified on July 8, 2024, that his remains were accounted for in Hawaii at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the "Punchbowl," and Corporal Howard Godwin Jr.'s remains will be laid to rest at the West Virginia National Cemetery, in his hometown of Grafton; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, Godwin will return home; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Corporal Howard Godwin, Jr. gave his life in the line of duty protecting the citizens of West Virginia, and the United States of America doing a job that he dearly loved; and

**WHEREAS**, all West Virginians mourn the tragic loss of this brave son who gave his life to protect and save people in emergency situations, and sympathy on their behalf is extended to his loved ones, his many friends, members of the United States Army family with whom he served faithfully and honorably, and to all those who knew and loved him.

*[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]*

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 United States Army Corporal Howard Godwin, Jr., the United States flag and West Virginia State flag displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities throughout Taylor County, West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on Friday, November 15, 2024, 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 Fourteenth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second Year of the State.



**By the Governor**

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

**GOVERNOR**

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

**SECRETARY OF STATE**