

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, John Pat Fanning was born on August 14, 1934, in Iaeger, McDowell County, West Virginia, the son of the late James P. and Gertrude (Neal) Fanning; and

**WHEREAS**, John Fanning attended David and Elkins College and Cincinnati College of Embalming, following in his father's footsteps, he worked as a mortician and funeral director for the family business; and

**WHEREAS**, John Fanning began his political career when he was elected mayor of the Town of Iaeger from 1962 to 1966; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Fanning was appointed to the West Virginia Senate in 1968 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Glenn Hatcher, covering McDowell, Wyoming, and portions of Wayne County; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Fanning was elected as Senator for a remarkable eight terms from 1968 to 1980, 1984 to 1988, and 1997 to 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Upon his retirement in 2012, the Senate passed a resolution honoring Senator Fanning for serving over 30 years in the legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Fanning operated the Iaeger branch of Fanning Funeral Homes, and proudly served as Director of Pioneer Community Bank and as Chairman of the board from 2005 to 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Fanning is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Kathryn, and six siblings, Juanita, Bob, Ranny, Shirley, Judy, and Tom; He is survived by four children, Brenda Wells and her Husband James, Deborah Tankersley and her Husband Tom, John William Fanning and his Wife Kim, Stacy Killen and her Husband Stephen Hodge; He is also survived by four grandchildren, Daniel Wells, Valerie Bensusky, Cole Tankersley, and Kaleigh Fanning; one great grandchild, Lucas; and multiple nieces and nephews; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia, friends, and associates of Senator John Pat Fanning 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 Senator John Pat Fanning, the United States and West Virginia State flags displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities throughout McDowell County, West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on January 23, 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 the Eighteenth day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First Year of the State.

  
**GOVERNOR**



**By the Governor**

  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**