

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, William Edward “Billy” Friese was born on the twenty-eighth day of September, Nineteen Hundred Eighty-eight; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy Friese graduated from Parkersburg South High School in Two Thousand Seven and earned an Occupational Associate Degree in Specialized Diesel Technology and Management from WyoTech in Two Thousand Thirteen; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy Friese joined the West Virginia Army National Guard in Two Thousand Eight with assignment to the 111th Engineer Brigade, during which time he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was serving at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, serving as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 821<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company; and

**WHEREAS**, SSG Billy Friese was previously deployed to Afghanistan in Two Thousand Ten with the 1092nd Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, SSG Billy Friese was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization Device, and numerous other medals and ribbons; and

**WHEREAS**, SSG Billy Friese is survived by wife, Nattakarn “Tookta” Srimoung Friese; children, Christian Alan and Narissara “Sarah” Srimoung; mothers, Cathy Teehan and

husband/stepfather, John, Cindy Jaworski and husband, Andre; father, Steve Ward; paternal grandparents, William "Bill" and Barbara Friese; maternal grandmother, Sandra Vanoster; siblings, Nathaniel Duvuvuei and wife, Maria, Orrin Duvuvuei and wife, Erin, Josh Ward, Kyle Ward, Ashley "Nikki" Morris and husband, Bobby, Kayla Lehan and husband, Ryan; nieces, Lillian, Cecelia, Abigail, Kinsey, Norah, and Bailey; nephew, Declan; special loved ones, Amber Lott and children, Wyatt, Hunter, and Maelyn Goodnight; several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends; and was predeceased by biological father, William "Bill" A. Friese; maternal grandfather, Donald Vanoster; and maternal grandmother, Anita May; and

**WHEREAS**, SSG Billy Friese, a committed and respected service member and a devoted family member, passed away while on active duty with the United States Army at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on the eighteenth of July, Two Thousand Nineteen; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia, friends and service members of the West Virginia National Guard desire to recognize SSG Billy Friese's dedicated service to the Great State of West Virginia and the United States of America, and to acknowledge his valuable contributions to the State and the United States of America.

**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 SSG Billy Friese, that all United States flags and West Virginia State flags displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities throughout Wood County, West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn until dusk on second day of August, Two Thousand Nineteen.

**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 first day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Seventh year of the State.

*James Earl Ray*  
**GOVERNOR**

*Mr. Warner*  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**