

State of West Virginia

Jim Justice

Governor

WHEREAS, Gene Vance, Jr. was born in Germany in 1963, resided in Morgantown, West Virginia, was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a true friend to all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Gene Vance, Jr. was a member of the West Virginia National Guard and was called to active duty following the events of September 11, 2001, when the United States was brutally attacked by al-Qaeda terrorists, taking nearly 3,000 lives; and

WHEREAS, Gene Vance, Jr. showed incredible courage, leadership, and personal sacrifice while defending this great nation and furthermore, displayed great acts of valor in the face of tremendous peril; and

WHEREAS, Gene Vance, Jr. was tragically killed in Afghanistan because of a gunshot wound on May 18, 2002, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Gene Vance, Jr. represents all American heroes, who have fought and died throughout the Global War on Terror to protect the freedoms upon which this country was founded; and

WHEREAS, on this day, a wreath will be placed in tribute to the service of the fallen members of the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, framing the Gene Vance, Jr Day are two other United States Military appreciation days that occur nationally in May, Armed Forces Day, which honors those currently serving, followed by Memorial Day, a public holiday honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Gene Vance Jr. Day is distinct from other U.S. military appreciation days in that it is named for an American military hero and specifically honors American service members and their allies who served and were wounded in a single notable ongoing conflict, the Global War on Terror, as well as those who perished in the conflict; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, in honor of Gene Vance, Jr. and all of West Virginia's many other heroes, who have served or are now serving in the United States Armed Forces in the Global War on Terror, do hereby bestow upon the Gene Vance, Jr Foundation for The Catastrophically Injured this proclamation to proclaim May 20, 2023, as Gene Vance, Jr. Day.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia, the fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord, 2023.



Jim Justice
Jim Justice
Governor