

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, courageous men and women of the Evergreen State have answered the call to protect and defend justice, liberty, and the freedom we hold so precious; and

WHEREAS, rising above the call of duty at the risk of grave injury and loss of life, a celebrated few of these fearless service members distinguished themselves as heroes in the eyes of their comrades through their bravery and self-sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, in 1862, the United States Congress established the Medal of Honor as the highest award to be given to members of our country's military forces in recognition of their incredible valor during armed conflict; and

WHEREAS, Washington honors the 46 Medal of Honor recipients from Hazard Stevens during the Civil War to Ty Carter, William Swenson, and Leroy Petry during the War on Terror in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, today we remember Emil Fredreksen, who was awarded the Medal of Honor in peacetime during the explosion of the USS Bennington in San Diego (1906) and today his grave receives a special headstone at Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Congress designated March 25 annually as National Medal of Honor Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the Great State of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2016 as

Medal of Honor Day

in Washington, and encourage all people in our state to remember with honor and celebrate with respect the brave heroes who have earned this recognition through fearless self-sacrifice in defense of our country and the ideals on which it was founded.



Signed this 2nd day of March, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee