

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MARYLAND EMANCIPATION DAY NOVEMBER 1, 2023

- WHEREAS,** *November 1, 1864 marked a pivotal day in Maryland's history when a new state constitution abolished slavery, making it the first state in the nation to voluntarily free its enslaved people by popular vote; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The abolition of slavery in Maryland was approved two months before the 13th amendment of the U.S. Constitution was passed by Congress, and a full year before the 13th amendment was ratified; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Today marks the commemoration of the 159th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the state of Maryland.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim NOVEMBER 1, 2023 as MARYLAND EMANCIPATION DAY in Maryland, and call upon the people of our state to join in this observance



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of November
Two Thousand and twenty-three

Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller

Susan C. Lee
Lt. Governor

Secretary of State