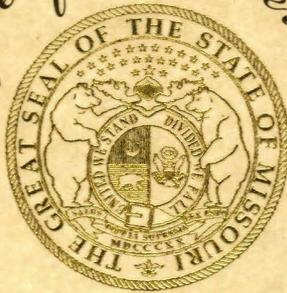


*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, our Nation's founders overcame enormous obstacles to establish a system of government unparalleled in history; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Jefferson made enormous contributions to U.S. diplomacy and we are the beneficiaries of that sacrifice, courage, and honor; and

**WHEREAS**, among these legendary patriots, Thomas Jefferson remains unique as the founder who articulated the essential values and principles of American liberty and freedom in the Declaration of Independence, which altered how the world viewed the relationship between government and the governed; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond Thomas Jefferson's achievements in public life as Governor of Virginia, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, Secretary of State, third President of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia, Jefferson was a scholar, author, naturalist, inventor, bibliophile, and architect; and

**WHEREAS**, as President, Jefferson supported the Lewis and Clark Expedition and secured the \$15 million purchase of the Louisiana Territory, of which a portion would later be known as the State of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, as our Nation evolves, one constant reminder for future generations is Jefferson's assertion that people have "unalienable rights," including "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2024, to be

**JEFFERSON DAY**

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.



*Michael L. Parson*

*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Jay Ashcroft*

SECRETARY OF STATE