

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

Whereas, the Bald Eagle was designated as the U.S.A.'s national emblem on June 20, 1782 by our country's founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle is unique to North America and represents such American values and attributes as freedom, courage, strength, spirit, justice, equality, and excellence; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many branches of U.S. Government; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning, and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles, and heritage of Americans from all walks of life; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning, and symbolism have played a significant role in American art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, and culture; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle was once endangered with possible extinction, and is making gradual and encouraging comeback to America's skies; and

Whereas, the Bald Eagle was federally classified as an "endangered species" in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and was changed to "threatened" under that same act in 1995; and

Whereas, the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delisted the Bald Eagle from Endangered Species Act protection in 2007, but will continue to be protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and

Whereas, the recovery of the U.S.A.'s Bald Eagle population was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations, and citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, Jack A. Markell, Governor,
do hereby declare June 20th, 2016

NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

in the State of Delaware and urge all citizens to join us in support of the majestic Bald Eagle's continuing recovery and the protection of its precious natural habitat, and in commemorating the living and symbolic presence of our National Bird through the annual observance of American Eagle Day.



Jack Markell

Jack A. Markell
Governor