

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, on August 5, 1949, 13 U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers lost their lives to the flames of the Mann Gulch forest fire in Helena National Forest; and

WHEREAS, these fallen heroes were responding to a routine fire call from their base in Missoula, and after beginning the process of containing and extinguishing the fire, the smokejumpers become trapped as the fire exploded beneath them; and

WHEREAS, this tragedy resulted in improved training, formal scientific research in fire behavior, and the development of safety equipment, flame resistant clothing, and fire shelters; and

WHEREAS, on the 75th Anniversary of this tragedy, we honor these young men's memory as heroes who put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of our communities and will forever be remembered for their courage and selflessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim August 5, 2024

MANN GULCH FIRE SMOKEJUMPER MEMORIAL DAY

in Montana to honor the memory of those who died in service protecting our community during the Mann Gulch fire.



GREG GIANFORTE
Governor