



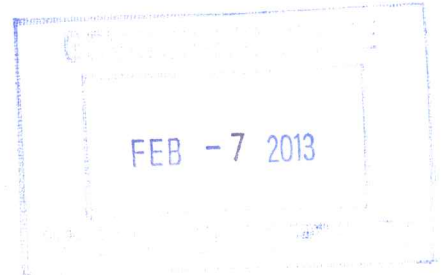
AMERICAN EAGLE FOUNDATION™

P.O. Box 333 • PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE 37868

WWW.EAGLES.ORG

February 4, 2013

The Honorable Governor Deval Patrick
State House
Office of the Governor
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

To date, the governors of 40 states have supported our national effort to establish and celebrate "American Eagle Day" on June 20th by issuing special proclamations (see proposed example attached).

Also, the United States Senate and House have unanimously passed "American Eagle Day" Resolutions in four prior years, and will do so again in 2013 (see attached).

This year, we respectfully request that you and your great state join us to help assure the participation of all 50 states in this special project prior to June 20, 2013.

The not-for-profit American Eagle Foundation (AEF) of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee seeks your support to establish a permanent and annual "American Eagle Day" on June 20th – the day the Bald Eagle was selected as the official national emblem of the United States of America by the Second Continental Congress in 1782.

This would be a special time on our calendar – appropriately positioned between Flag Day on June 14th and Independence Day on July 4th – for the American people to celebrate and remember the successful recovery of the Bald Eagle from the brink of extinction, as well as the important symbolic role this majestic bird has played in our country's heritage, spirit and natural legacy for the past 230 years.

As you know, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removed the Bald Eagle from Endangered Species Act protection in June 2007. However, eagle recovery efforts - including habitat protection and nest monitoring - will be on-going to maintain and continue the progress already made.

Therefore, we must all remain vigilant in keeping a watchful eye over our proud national bird for years to come - as we never want it to become endangered or threatened again.

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In 2007, the AEF introduced its first "American Eagle Day" resolution in both the U.S. Senate and House. That resolution and similar resolutions in subsequent years were unanimously passed before June 20th (each year). During the 111th Congress in 2010, H. RES. 1409 and S. RES. 542 were passed.

Elementary school children, boy/girl scouts, celebrities and civic/fraternal/conservation organizations across the country have joined the American Eagle Foundation in writing letters to various Governors requesting that they proclaim "American Eagle Day" on a state-by-state level.

These young people and others have already created a ground swell of grass-roots support for this wonderful and appropriate idea. This has especially been an important opportunity for America's youth to participate in the Democratic process and have their voice heard relative to this patriotic conservation issue.

The AEF hereby requests that you and the great State of Massachusetts join us in proclaiming "American Eagle Day" on June 20, 2013.

We have enclosed a recommended proclamation which all participating governors have previously used.

We would greatly appreciate you and your state joining us - as soon as possible - to help accomplish the proclamation of this special and important day in your state.

Americans everywhere must never forget that we almost lost this precious national treasure (and living symbol of our nation) – primarily due to our own carelessness and neglect. But we chose to rise to the occasion and take action. In fact, we cared passionately enough about the eagle's tragic plight to band together and help bring it back to flourishing population numbers throughout America's lands, waterways and skies – hopefully forever.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and swift action in the above-mentioned regard.

Respectfully yours,



Al Louis Cecere
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State of _____

PROCLAMATION

By The Governor

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, Quality 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 the U. S. Government, including the Presidency, Congress, Defense Department, Treasury Department, Justice Department, State Department, Department Of Commerce and U. S. Postal Service; 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, including U.S. military service men/women, American Indians, Christians, and members of various civic, fraternal, patriotic, veterans, youth, conservation, educational, outdoors, nature, sportsman, wildlife, political and sports organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in American art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, culture; and on United States stamps, currency and coinage; and

WHEREAS, the Bald Eagle was once endangered with possible extinction, and is making a 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 in 1973, and was upgraded to a less imperiled "threatened" status under that 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 Act of 1940 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; 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 the elected Governor of _____
(name of State) do hereby proclaim June 20th as our State's annual

AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

I hereby encourage all United States 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and cause the Great Seal of the State of _____ to be affixed at _____,
_____ (city and state) on this _____ day of _____.

Governor's Name and Signature: _____