



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Friends of the Smokies was founded in 1993 in part by prominent North Carolinians Dr. Myron Coulter, Stephen W. Woody, John Dickson, and Chief Lee Jones with support from 151 charter members including Wilma Dykeman Stokely and Mimi Cecil; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Friends of the Smokies is to assist the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park by raising funds and public awareness, and providing volunteers for projects as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration honors and recognizes the thousands of dedicated park volunteers and National Park Service employees who work tirelessly to preserve and protect Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of the Smokies has raised more than \$62 million in its effort to support America's most-visited national park and maintain its place as a crown jewel of the National Park Service; and

**WHEREAS**, by example of their leadership and ongoing efforts, the board of directors and president James Hart have garnered support from donors throughout the nation as well as countries around the world who contribute their time, talent, and resources to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 3, 2018, as **"IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF THE SMOKIES"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.