

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "HOOVER" JONES DAY**

**2019**

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

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Private First Class William "Hoover" Jones was born on 26 October 1931 in Red Oak, North Carolina; he was the seventh of eight children and attended Swift Creek High School in Whitakers, North Carolina before enlisting in the United States Army at the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS**, Private First Class Jones heroically served as an Infantryman during the Korean War in one of America's last segregated units: Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 1.8 million American soldiers, sailors and marines, including more than 177,000 North Carolinians, served during the Korean War; roughly 33,000 gave their lives and 7,800 remained unaccounted for at the conclusion of the conflict; and

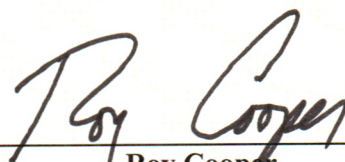
**WHEREAS**, Private First Class Jones' last known public communication was on 17 November 1950 in a letter to his mother; he later appeared to vanish from the battlefield on 26 November 1950 and was declared dead by the US Army on 31 December 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, After nearly 68 years, the diligent efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the steadfast prayers of his still-living siblings, Elizabeth Ohree, Ida Dickens and Thelma Hilliard and their family, Private First Class Jones' remains were recovered and identified in September 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Private First Class Jones honorably served his country, was a highly-decorated combat veteran and a recently recovered North Carolinian, his remains will lie in honor at the North Carolina State Capital on 21 June 2019 to be honored by all North Carolinians and as expression of our state's highest gratitude and respect;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 21, 2019, as "**PRIVATE WILLIAM HOOVER JONES DAY**" in North Carolina, to commemorate Private Jones' selfless service and ultimate sacrifice for his country and this state 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 twenty-first day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.