



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

GREETINGS FROM GOVERNOR JUSTICE

As we reflect on this 11th annual Gene Vance Jr. Day, I want to express my support for all of our armed forces.

Days like today are so important to me and all West Virginians. The men and women who dedicate their lives to serving our great country should be honored and thanked in every way possible.

On Gene Vance Jr. Day, we specifically honor those who returned home from the Global War on Terror, we mourn the fallen, and support the wounded.

Our veterans have given so much and yet they ask for so little in return. We need to appreciate them not just today, but every day.

It takes someone with a lot of bravery and courage to sign up for a job so risky and challenging. Those who fought in the War on Terror left their families, their children, and their friends, for months on end to make sure we were safe at home.

West Virginia has one of the highest populations of veterans. We know what it's like to have family members or friends say goodbye and not know if they will return and it's tough stuff. But these brave soldiers choose to stand tall in the face of adversity and we couldn't be more proud of them.

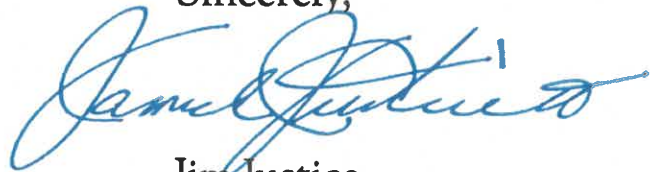
Today, I also ask everyone to keep all those serving now in your prayers as we deal with the conflict in Ukraine and terrorism across the globe. Unfortunately, there are people with evil intentions everywhere we turn but we know we have the best protecting us.

A special thank you to Michael M.J. Minc and all of you with the Gene Vance Jr. Foundation. Gene was an American hero.

I've read that he was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed mountain biking and white water rafting – a true West Virginian! It's a shame that he is gone too soon, but he will never be forgotten. I hope your family can continue his legacy for years to come.

Thank you for including me in today's celebration. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Justice

Governor