

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** in 1842 Stephen Bates was born, enslaved in Virginia and gained his freedom through serving with Union Soldiers during the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1866, Stephen Bates came to Vermont with Congressman Frederick E. Woodbridge and settled in Vergennes; and

**WHEREAS,** Stephen Bates was elected Sheriff and appointed Chief of Police in Vergennes in 1879 becoming Vermont's first known elected black sheriff and chief of police; and

**WHEREAS,** Stephen Bates served as Sheriff of Vergennes for 25 years until his death in 1907; and

**WHEREAS,** Stephen Bates' life and service represents immense perseverance overcoming enslavement to become a prominent member of the community in Vermont and dedicating his life to serving the people of Vergennes; and

**WHEREAS,** the work of Vergennes residents and descendants of Stephen Bates has led to commemorating Sheriff Bates's life with a historical marker in Vergennes.

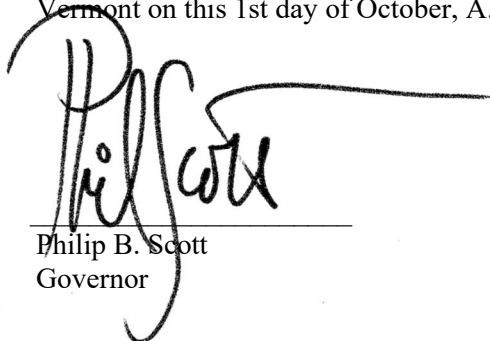
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 3, 2021 as

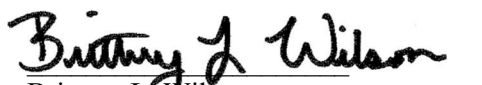
**SHERIFF STEPHEN BATES DAY**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of October, A.D. 2021.



  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor

  
Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs