

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Justin Morgan was a teacher, composer, businessman, and horseman who moved to Randolph, Vermont from Springfield Massachusetts, who acquired a bay colt named Figure, born in 1789, and as was the practice of the day, became known by his owner's name, the Justin Morgan horse – the founding sire of the Morgan horse breed; and
- WHEREAS,** today the Morgan horse is a favorite among saddle, family, and endurance breeds in America, and is known for its intelligence, charisma, and companionship, making it an ideal horse for riders with pursuits of competition or pleasure; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 23, 1961, House Bill No. 106 was signed by Governor F. Ray Keyser, Jr., and the Morgan horse became the official state animal of Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** Deane C. Davis, prior to his term as Governor of Vermont, was instrumental in the adoption of the Morgan horse as Vermont's official animal, having owned and showed Morgan horses, served as chairman of the Vermont Morgan Horse Association, and later the American Morgan Horse Association; and
- WHEREAS,** Colonel Joseph Battell, who is attributed with saving the Morgan horse breed from extinction, began breeding Morgan horses on his farm in Weybridge, Vermont in the late 1870s, and later gave his farm to the U.S. Government in 1907, who then operated the farm, breeding, training, selling, and exhibiting Morgan horses for the cavalry and for the public until 1951; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1951, the U.S. Government gave the farm to the University of Vermont, which dedicated the Morgan Horse Farm to the preservation and improvement of the Morgan horse through breeding and selection; and
- WHEREAS,** the American Morgan Horse Association has designated a "Day of the Morgan" with a nationwide open barn program focused on showcasing Morgan horses to the public, including many participating Morgan owners in Vermont.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2017

MORGAN HORSE DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 20th day of October, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", is written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs