

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

Case No. 2:11-ad-11111

**IN RE: STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE
IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE**



**ORDER OF COMMEMORATION
AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**

Federal law establishes public holidays for federal employees. These holidays are observed through the granting of administrative leave to the staff of the offices of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. Inasmuch as Independence Day falls on Saturday, July 4, 2026, the holiday will be observed on Friday, July 3, 2026.

This year marks the Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of what has become our United States of America. From humble beginnings, our Nation has endured and flourished because generations of Americans have devoted their lives, labor, courage, and, in far too many instances, their last full measure of devotion to the preservation of liberty and the principles of self-government.

The liberties we enjoy are neither accidental nor self-sustaining. They depend upon the continued fidelity of our leaders and our people to the Constitution and upon the faithful service of those entrusted with the work of government. The employees of this Court serve in that important tradition. Through their

professionalism, integrity, diligence, and commitment to excellence, they help ensure that the federal judiciary fulfills its constitutional responsibility to administer justice fairly, impartially, and faithfully under law. The Court is deeply grateful for their service.

As we commemorate this historic anniversary, we are reminded that the blessings of American liberty have come at an immeasurable cost. We remember those who left their homes and families and lost their lives on distant battlefields; those who suffered wounds, captivity, hardship, and lasting burdens in defense of our Nation; and the families, friends, and loved ones who bore those sacrifices in grief and quiet strength. We remember as well the extraordinary service of civilians who, in moments of war, crisis, division, and uncertainty, labored, sacrificed, led, cared for others, defended civil rights, preserved public order, and helped sustain the promise of the Republic. And, again, we recognize the generations of federal employees who, often without acclaim, have faithfully carried out the work of constitutional government and helped ensure that the liberties secured at so great a cost are preserved in practice as well as principle, at times with little to no recognition for their invaluable efforts.

In special recognition of the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America, and in appreciation of the dedicated service of the employees of this Court, the offices of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia shall be closed on Monday, July 6, 2026, and staff shall be granted administrative leave for that day.

Importantly, the Court encourages its employees, during this extended Independence Day weekend, to take time to reflect upon the modest beginnings of our Republic, the sacrifices of the countless Americans who secured and preserved our liberty, and the blessings of citizenship in a Nation founded upon freedom, ordered liberty, and the rule of law. May we remain thankful for our country, mindful of the responsibility that accompanies its inheritance, and steadfast in our service to the principles upon which it was founded.

It is so ORDERED.

ENTER: June 1, 2026



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank W. Volk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Frank W. Volk
Chief United States District Judge