

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:


- WHEREAS, Kentucky is the birthplace of Bourbon, producing 95 percent of the world's supply, making the Commonwealth the one true and authentic home for America's only native spirit; and
- WHEREAS, The Bourbon economy, as a thriving \$9 billion engine, helps counties and cities across Kentucky by combining manufacturing, agriculture and tourism in an industry that employs more than 22,500 hard-working individuals with an annual payroll topping \$1.23 billion; and
- WHEREAS, This iconic, homegrown industry is in the middle of a \$5.2 billion capital investment campaign, creating new good-paying jobs and spurring economic growth with the Commonwealth's second-highest job multiplier; and
- WHEREAS, Amid the economic growth and investment, there are now 100 distilleries in 40 counties across Kentucky bringing new prosperity and opportunity to every corner of the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, Bourbon production has soared more than 470 percent since the turn of the century, with 2.6 million barrels filled in 2021, the fourth year in a row that new production topped 2 million barrels; and
- WHEREAS, There are now 11.4 million barrels of Bourbon aging in Kentucky warehouses, the highest inventory in history, meaning there are more than 2.5 barrels for each of the 4.5 million people living in Kentucky; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky Bourbon industry is a chief part of the Commonwealth's agricultural, agritech and agritourism sectors, annually purchasing more than 13.5 million bushels of corn and other grains from Kentucky farm families; and
- WHEREAS, Bourbon drove a record-breaking 2.13 million tours at Kentucky Bourbon Trail® and Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour® distilleries in 2022 and remains a tourism engine that shows no signs of slowing down; and
- WHEREAS, Kentucky distillers are among the Commonwealth's foremost corporate citizens, donating millions of dollars each year to local, state and charitable causes, education, the arts and much more; and
- WHEREAS, Kentucky's distilling industry should be commended for its strong and continued efforts to promote the responsible and moderate use of its products, to eliminate drunken driving, and to curb underage drinking;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim September 2023, as

BOURBON HERITAGE MONTH

in Kentucky and commend this observance to all.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 29th day of August, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three and in the 232nd year of the Commonwealth.


ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR


Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State



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DATE

8/31/2023

MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY

Shirley J. Ewing