



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1983, 240 brave U.S. service members, including 220 Marines, lost their lives in a tragic bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. These men and women were serving in a peacekeeping mission as part of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, a mission that underscored the United States' commitment to global peace and stability; and

WHEREAS, among these courageous individuals was Major William E. Winter, a dedicated officer and proud alumnus of Auburn University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. He exemplified the spirit of duty, honor and service that defines both the United States Marine Corps and the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Major Winter, along with his fellow Marines, paid the ultimate sacrifice, embodying the highest ideals of selflessness and heroism, and it is fitting and proper that we honor their memory and recognize the profound impact of their service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the bombing stands as a solemn reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring courage of those who defend it. The legacy of Major William E. Winter and his fellow service members continues to inspire generations of Americans, and it is our duty to ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama takes great pride in the contributions of its citizens to the defense of our nation, and it is incumbent upon us to remember those who have fallen in the line of duty, to honor their memory and to support their families and loved ones;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2024, as

Marine Barracks Bombing Remembrance Day

in the state of Alabama and urge all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities and moments of silence in honor of Major William E. Winter, the Marines and all those who gave their lives in the bombing. Let us remember their sacrifice and recommit ourselves to the values for which they stood—duty, honor and country.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 16th day of October 2024.*

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor