



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, physician anesthesiologists have advanced patient care throughout the history of modern medicine. Instrumental in the pivotal milestones of medical history, physician anesthesiologists' innovations have shaped what is possible in surgical care, pain management and critical care; and

WHEREAS, the invention and clinical introduction of anesthesia – i.e., ether, chloroform, nitrous oxide, and later modern agents such as halothane, sevoflurane, propofol and remifentanil – by physician anesthesiologists makes painless surgery possible and is often cited as the most important medical advance in history

WHEREAS, the innovation and advancement of airway management and intubation techniques and devices by physician anesthesiologists ensures every breath patients take during surgery is protected; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of the Apgar Score – a test created by anesthesiologist Dr. Virginia Apgar – ensures a baby's health is assessed at birth and significantly transformed obstetric care; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of mechanical ventilation and ventilator management perfected by physician anesthesiologists helped lead to the creation of the modern Intensive Care Unit, saving millions of lives worldwide; and

WHEREAS, physician anesthesiologists' innovation of patient safety science and safety monitoring, including pulse oximetry, have changed how patients' heart and lung function and blood oxygenation levels are monitored in the operating room and standards on basic anesthetic monitoring have heralded the largest sustained reduction in perioperative mortality of any specialty; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of regional anesthesia, such as nerve blocks, spinal anesthesia and epidurals, by physician anesthesiologists has transformed pain management options, reducing opioid use and combatting the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of cardiothoracic, transplant, trauma anesthesia by physician anesthesiologists – makes once-impossible, high-risk surgeries such as open-heart and transplant surgery possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim January 25 through January 31, 2026, as

Physician Anesthesiologists Week

in the state of Alabama.



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 22nd day of January 2026.


Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor