



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #173

Relating to a Proclamation that the Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of Wisconsin Be Flown at Half-Staff to Mark the 10th Anniversary of the Oak Creek Sikh Temple Shooting

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2012, a white supremacist gunman entered the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, a gurdwara in Oak Creek, and opened fire, wounding several people and ultimately killing seven, including Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, the founder of the gurdwara; Paramjit Kaur Saini, 41; Prakash Singh, 39; Sita Singh, 41; Ranjit Singh, 49; and Suveg Singh Khattrra, 84; as well as Baba Punjab Singh, 72, a Sikh priest who died in early 2020 from complications related to his injuries from the attack;

WHEREAS, the attack occurred as members of the congregation were preparing for Sunday school classes and services and cooking food for langar, a free community meal served at gurdwaras to any and all visitors, regardless of their race, religion, gender, or background;

WHEREAS, the heroic efforts and actions of Lieutenant Brian Murphy, who was shot 15 times by the gunman, Officer Savan “Sam” Lenda, other first responders, and worshipers at the gurdwara helped prevent additional loss of life;

WHEREAS, the legacies of those lost will live on through continued acts of service, interfaith collaboration, and civic engagement by not only the Oak Creek Sikh community but Sikh communities across the United States and the world;

WHEREAS, the shooting remains a painful reminder of the work that still must be done to protect all communities in the United States against the rising threat of targeted, hate-fueled violence—but also as a shining example of the incredible resilience of the Sikh community and their belief in “chardi kala,” or relentless optimism, in the face of tragedy, as well as their steadfast efforts to heal their community by working to build a more just and equitable world for all people; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wisconsin honor the lives needlessly lost, those who were injured, the extraordinary efforts of those who prevented more lives from being taken, and all those forever impacted by the mass shooting at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wisconsin ten years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Wisconsin shall be flown at half-staff at all buildings, grounds, and military installations of the State of Wisconsin, beginning at sunrise on Friday, August 5, 2022, and ending at sunset on that date.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this second day of August in the year of two thousand twenty-two.

TONY EVERS
Governor



By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State