



In the Name and by the Authority of

# THE STATE OF OHIO



**WHEREAS**, Bulgaria and the United States are strategic partners and allies, sharing ties of culture, tradition, and common interest; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the United States Senate's ratification of the Protocol for Accession of Bulgaria into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the 80th anniversary of the Bulgarian people's rescue of the Bulgarian Jews; the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria; and

**WHEREAS**, March 3, 2023 marks the 145th anniversary of the reestablishment of a free Bulgaria; and

**WHEREAS**, New Lexington, Ohio, is the birthplace of Januarius Aloysius MacGahan, an American war correspondent and journalist whose investigative reports uncovered the atrocities committed by irregular Ottoman troops against Bulgarians during the 1876 April Uprising; and

**WHEREAS**, Januarius MacGahan's work helped rally the international community's support in favor of the Bulgarians' struggle for freedom, for which MacGahan is recognized as the Liberator of Bulgaria and has been honored since 1978 with the annual American-Bulgarian "MacGahan Festival" in New Lexington, Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, tens of thousands of Bulgarians arrived in the United States from the geographic region of Macedonia during the first half of the 20th century in an effort to pursue freedom, flee oppression, and escape conflict. Today, the descendants of the Bulgarian immigrants remain steadfast American patriots with growing and active communities throughout Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, Cincinnati Chili, named one of the "20 Most Iconic Foods of America," was founded by the Tom and Jeff Kiradjieff brothers from the town of Chroupista, present day Argos Orestiko, and whose legacy is shared by the Macedonian, Bulgarian, and Greek cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, the work of the University of Cincinnati Bulgarian-American scientist Widen Tabakoff had tremendous impact on NASA's missions to the Moon and shaped the field of aerospace engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, the two Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Churches "Saint Thomas" in Cleveland and "Saint Herman of Alaska" in Hudson, along with the Bulgarian Sunday School "Rodoliubie" in Cincinnati serve as social and religious centers, preserving the Bulgarian and Bulgarian-American heritage and traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Bulgarian-Americans contribute to Ohio's economic prosperity and diversity by promoting their culture and traditions through numerous community organizations, with the Bulgarian Association of Cincinnati being one of the most active and vibrant ones.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the

## BULGARIAN LIBERATION DAY

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2023.

Mike DeWine  
Governor



Jon Husted  
Lieutenant Governor