



*State of Missouri*  
*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Missouri has a proud connection in supporting people of the Jewish faith through United States President Harry S. Truman, who called Missouri home and was the first world leader to officially recognize Israel as a legitimate Jewish state on May 14, 1948; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Jewish faith have been coming to Missouri for over 200 years as early settlers in communities throughout Missouri. Their role as community leaders and ongoing contributions to our diverse culture and way of life are deserving of recognition and protection; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1.1% of the population in the State of Missouri is Jewish as of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Jewish American Heritage Month was established to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the Jewish community in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri rejects antisemitism towards members of the Jewish faith – and bigotry of any kind toward all people – and further recognizes that defining antisemitism can assist in bringing greater awareness to the continued discrimination against Jewish people with the goal of eliminating discrimination towards Jewish people; and

**WHEREAS**, an exhaustive definition of antisemitism is impossible to capture, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism is used by agencies of the United States Government; and has been adopted or endorsed by more than 1,100 global agencies, including over 40 countries, 31 states in the United States, over 250 provinces and cities, and over 350 educational institutions; is recommended for use by the European Council and the European Parliament; and is endorsed by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month in Missouri and adopt the working definition of antisemitism as established by the IHRA on behalf of the State of Missouri, which states; “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE