

*Office of the Mayor  
Foley, Alabama*

# *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special Day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, his holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, 2026 is the 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the holiday and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling cost, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable source giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property value, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our communities, and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

WHEREAS, the City of Foley has been recognized a TREE CITY USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for forty-five years and desires to continue its tree-planting efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph G. Hellmich, as Mayor of the City of Foley do hereby proclaim February 28, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Foley, Alabama and urge all citizens to fully support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our city's community forestry program, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my  
hand on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026*

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_