

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Jesse White has served as Illinois' 37<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State since 1999, making him both the longest tenured Secretary and the state's first African-American man elected to the position; and,

**WHEREAS**, his storied career in public service began in 1958 as a paratrooper in the US Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, from which he launched a 33-year career with Chicago Public Schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1974, White was first elected to public office, where he served 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly, including a tenure as Chair of the Committee on Human Services; in 1992, he was elected as the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, where he served for two terms before his inaugural campaign for Secretary of State; and,

**WHEREAS**, in his six terms as Secretary of State, White has overseen massive improvements in customer service, drastically reducing wait times and streamlining application processes so that Illinoisans can quickly receive important identification and driving documents; and,

**WHEREAS**, White has been a leader in promoting road safety, championing stronger DUI laws, revamping truck driver license requirements, and redeveloping the teen driving program; he has also advanced strict rules against distracted driving that have helped to reduce drunk driving and teen driving deaths by almost 50 percent over the last two decades; and,

**WHEREAS**, as State Librarian, White promoted literacy programs across the state; as State Archivist, he has helped to preserve our state's public records for future generations to review and study; and,

**WHEREAS**, through the Jesse White Tumblers program, he has helped to provide over 18,000 children with a positive outlet outside of school; his tumblers perform more than 1,500 annually and have travelled around the country and world to share their talents;

**THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim December 12, 2019, as **JESSE WHITE DAY** to honor and celebrate his ethical leadership and tremendous lifetime of contributions to our state's communities.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* ELEVENTH *day of* DECEMBER, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
NINETEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*  
*two hundred and* FIRST.



*Jesse White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR