

# SENATE RESOLUTION 66

(By Senator M. Maynard)

[Introduced March 14, 2026]

1 Designating March 14, 2026, as McDowell County day at the Legislature.

2           Whereas, What is now McDowell County, West Virginia, served as the location of the  
3 Sandy Creek Expedition of 1756, marking the first military alliance between the Cherokee and the  
4 British, an alliance that laid critical groundwork for British victory in the French and Indian War; and

5           Whereas, McDowell County became known as the “Free State,” reflecting its uniquely  
6 diverse population and its role as a cultural crossroads within the State of West Virginia; and

7           Whereas, McDowell County earned national recognition as the “Nation’s Coal Bin,”  
8 providing the coal that fueled the growth, industry, and economic expansion of both West Virginia  
9 and the United States; and

10           Whereas, McDowell County is the home of Minnie Buckingham Harper, the first African-  
11 American woman to serve in any state legislature in the United States, marking a historic  
12 milestone in American political representation; and

13           Whereas, McDowell County erected the first World War I Memorial in the nation, and also  
14 erected the first African-American World War I Memorial in the nation, further underscoring its  
15 legacy of recognition, inclusion, and respect for all who served; and

16           Whereas, The first municipal parking building in the United States was constructed in  
17 McDowell County, reflecting the county’s early embrace of modernization and infrastructure  
18 innovation; and

19           Whereas, The resilient people of McDowell County have rebuilt time and again from  
20 devastating floods, demonstrating extraordinary perseverance, unity, and community spirit; and

1           Whereas, McDowell County has embraced adventure tourism as a new economic frontier,  
2 welcoming visitors from across the nation to experience its natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and  
3 Appalachian heritage; and

4           Whereas, McDowell County continues to revitalize its culture, strengthen its communities,  
5 and pursue new economic opportunities, embodying the enduring spirit of all West Virginians;  
6 therefore, be it

7           *Resolved by the Senate:*

8           That the Senate hereby designates March 14, 2026, as McDowell County Day at the  
9 Legislature; and, be it

10           *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to a  
11 representative of the McDowell County Commission.