

# PROCLAMATION

## Declaring Barbour County, WV a Stroke Smart County

**WHEREAS**, stroke is a leading cause of death and a primary cause of long term disability in the United States, affecting nearly 800,000 individuals each year; and

**WHEREAS**, a stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients, causing brain cells to begin dying within minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, early recognition of stroke warning signs and immediate medical attention can significantly improve outcomes, reduce disability, and save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the acronym B.E.F.A.S.T. — Balance problems or dizziness, Eyes and vision changes, Face drooping, Arm or leg weakness, Speech difficulty or sensory changes, and Time to call 911 — serves as a simple and effective tool to help the public recognize the most common signs of stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, rapid treatment, including clot busting medications and other interventions, is most effective when administered as quickly as possible after symptoms begin; and

**WHEREAS**, many strokes are preventable through management of risk factors including high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles, and improving access to timely medical care are critical to reducing the burden of stroke within our communities; and

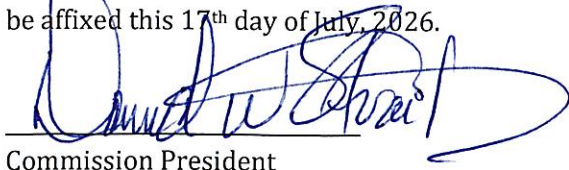
**WHEREAS**, it is important to educate the public about stroke prevention, recognition, and response, while supporting stroke survivors and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Barbour County, WV commits to participating in and contributing to Stroke Smart efforts throughout the community, including county and municipal buildings, hospitals and clinics, pharmacies, health departments, fire and EMS departments, and public and private schools, in order to improve stroke literacy among residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,**

that we, the duly elected leaders of Barbour County, WV, do hereby proclaim this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026, that Barbour County, WV shall hereinafter be recognized as a Stroke Smart County.

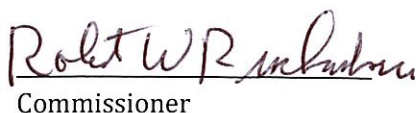
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Barbour County, WV to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.



Commission President



Commissioner



Commissioner