PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, born in a farmhouse near Dana, Indiana, Ernie Pyle went on to attend Indiana University, where he studied journalism and embarked on a professional journalism career prior to graduation by working for the LaPorte Herald in 1923; and

WHEREAS, Pyle became the voice of the rank-and-file soldiers called upon and newspaper readers in the United States used his column to get a feel for what husbands, sons, brothers and uncles were doing in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany before he moved to the Pacific Theatre to cover the island-hopping campaign; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the same year he earned a Pulitzer Prize for his work depicting the life of ordinary soldiers, Pyle suggested combat soldiers be given "fight pay" and Congress acted, giving soldiers fifty percent extra pay for combat service in what became known as the "Ernie Pyle Bill"; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle lost his life while serving as a war correspondent on Ie Shima, a small island just west of Okinawa in the Pacific Theatre; and

WHEREAS, the role Pyle played as a bridge between the front line and the home front was so significant and strong that Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal announced his death and President Harry Truman offered his condolences to a nation that avidly read his columns;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim August 3, 2018 as

ERNIE PYLE DAY

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of State. Done at the City of Indianapolis, this 5th day of June the year of our Lord 2018 and of the Independence of the United States 242.

BY THE GOVERNOR: Eric Holcomb