Whereas, February 19th, 2019, marks the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and the 47th year that the Commonwealth has officially recognized the important date in our nation’s history; and

Whereas, The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the most intense hand-to-hand battles in American history; and

Whereas, In the largest combined force ever committed to battle by the United States Marine Corps, more than 65,000 United States Marines from the 5th, 4th, and 5th, Marine Divisions fought day and night for twenty-four consecutive days to overtake the eight-and-one-half-square-mile stronghold known as Iwo Jima; and

Whereas, At 10:32 a.m. on February 28th, 1945, a group of Marines raised the Stars and Stripes atop Mount Suribachi, inspiring their comrades to plunge into battle with renewed vigor; and

Whereas, This great victory in the most famous of all Marine Corps battles was secured by the courage of the Corps and the individual valor of each Marine; and

Whereas, Following Iwo Jima, a grateful Congress represented an indebted citizenry by awarding numerous medals for Bravery, including twenty-two Medals of Honor to Marines and five Medals of Honor to their Navy Corpsmen comrades; and

Whereas, Close to 7,000 Americans lost their lives at Iwo Jima, and more than 19,000 others were wounded; and

Whereas, In lauding the outstanding bravery these men showed in the face of incredible odds, Admiral Chester William Nimitz asserted that "uncommon valor was a common virtue"

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 19th, 2019, to be,

IWO JIMA DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this fourteenth day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Charles Baker  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Karyn E. Polito  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

William Francis Galvin  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts