



State of  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**NORTH DAKOTA JEWISH HOMESTEADERS' DAY**  
MAY 21, 2017

**WHEREAS**, from 1870 to 1920, North Dakota had over 1,200 Jewish farmers farming on approximately 250 homesteads in over 50 settlements, which gave North Dakota the fourth-largest population of Jewish homesteaders in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashley/Wishek Jewish homesteading settlement was comprised of over 400 people who lived on approximately 85 settlements in McIntosh County, North Dakota, all of whom had fled their homelands of Russia and Romania to escape religious persecution. The farming community they created was the largest Jewish farming community to ever populate North Dakota and South Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashley Jewish Homesteaders Cemetery is the only permanent, physical reminder of the thriving Jewish farming community; and

**WHEREAS**, following the unanimous vote of North Dakota's Historic Preservation Board, the National Parks Service of the United States Department of the Interior recently named the Ashley Jewish Homesteaders Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, a rededication of the cemetery honoring these courageous pioneers is being held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the contributions that this group made to North Dakota's rich history; as hardworking farmers, business owners, and proud, active citizens of the State of North Dakota.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 21, 2017, **NORTH DAKOTA JEWISH HOMESTEADERS' DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State