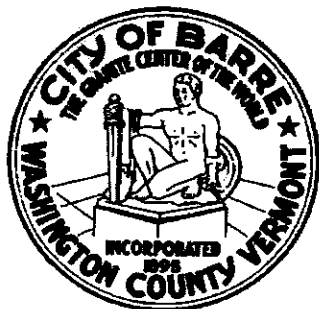


CITY OF BARRE, VERMONT MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 125th ANNIVERSARY OF LABOR DAY IN BARRE

- WHEREAS, With the growth of trade unions and labor movements in the late 19th century, the different groups chose a variety of dates on which to celebrate labor in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Sen. James Henderson Kyle of South Dakota introduced bill S. 730 to the U. S. Congress on May 15th, 1894, proposing Labor Day be the first Monday in September. The bill was signed into law by President Cleveland on June 28, 1894; and
- WHEREAS, Though not yet a state holiday, Barre was the first community in Vermont to celebrate Labor Day, which took place at the Green Mountain Trotting Park (present location of Spaulding High School) on September 7, 1895. The event was sponsored by the Barre Granite Cutters' Union; and
- WHEREAS, A Barre newspaper, "The Barre City Leader," reported that the trotting park "was well fitted for the occasion with swings and hammocks, and a large pavilion for dancing with the music being furnished by the Barre Coronet Band"; and
- WHEREAS, In 1898, the Vermont Legislature made Labor Day a legal state holiday, sponsored by Rep. George T. Swasey of Barre; and
- WHEREAS, At a Labor Day celebration in neighboring Berlin in 1899, Barre Mayor John W. Gordon spoke: "We are predominantly a nation of laborers. Every hand accomplishes something. It is a fact that we have accomplished much more by labor than by war."; and
- WHEREAS, Barre's dedication to labor continued through the years with the construction of the Socialist Labor Party Hall on Granite Street in 1900 -- one of only a handful of nationally recognized historic labor sites in the country, in addition to active unions protecting the rights of granite workers through the early 1900's, leading to substantial changes in worker safety. To this day labor continues to play a vital part in the Barre community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lucas J. Herring, Mayor of the City of Barre, Vermont, do hereby proclaim September 7th, 2020 as Barre's 125th Anniversary of Labor Day. In the words of Sen. James Henderson Kyle, this holiday "is to emphasize some great event or principle in the minds of the people by giving them a day of rest and recreation, a day of enjoyment, in commemoration of [labor]. By making one day in each year a public holiday for the benefit of workingmen the equality and dignity of labor is emphasized. Nothing is more important to the public weal than that the nobility of labor be maintained. So long as the laboring man can feel that he holds an honorable as well as useful place in the body politic, so long will he be a loyal and faithful citizen."




Lucas J. Herring, Mayor