



Proclamation Honoring John Henry James Day

- WHEREAS,** Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, as part of their Community Remembrance Project, have committed to sharing an inclusive history of our County—including the stories that have been traditionally left out of the dominant narrative; and
- WHEREAS,** following Reconstruction, the crime of lynching succeeded slavery in the United States as an expression of racism and an upholder of white supremacy until the middle of the 20th century; and
- WHEREAS,** the lynching of Mr. John Henry James on July 12, 1898 was determined to have taken place in the County of Albemarle; his body shot dozens of times and his corpse hanging for hours; and
- WHEREAS,** 99 percent of all perpetrators, including those who murdered Mr. James, escaped punishment by State or local officials; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that a history of racial injustice must be acknowledged, recognized, and most especially, remembered before a community may heal, and that July 12, 2021 marks the 123rd anniversary of the lynching of Mr. John Henry James.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors do hereby recognize this tragic anniversary and declare July 12, 2021, as John Henry James Day in remembrance of our shared community history and as a demonstration of our commitment that this tragedy will be neither forgotten nor repeated.

Signed this 7th day of July 2021.

Ned Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors