



PROCLAMATION

National Lighthouse Day August 7, 2026

WHEREAS, we recognize that [National Lighthouse Day](#) is celebrated on August 7th each year during National Lighthouse Week; and

WHEREAS, on **August 7, 1789**, 237 years ago, Congress approved the **Lighthouse Act of 1789**, establishing federal responsibility for the nation's lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers. It was the ninth law passed by the newly created U.S. Congress. President George Washington then signed the Act into law, marking a significant milestone in promoting maritime safety; and

WHEREAS, we know that in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the Lighthouse Act and the commissioning of the first Federal lighthouse, Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island sponsored a joint resolution that was introduced to Congress on April 28, 1988, designating **August 7** each year as **National Lighthouse Day**. The bill went on to be signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 5, 1988; and

WHEREAS, we are honored to have the 130-year-old, 65-foot-tall **Umpqua River Lighthouse**, with its first-order, rare and iconic, red and white Fresnel lens, handcrafted in 1890 by Barbier & Cie of Paris, France with twenty-four bullseye panels, consisting of 616 glass prisms proudly shining as a beacon above the coastal shores of Douglas County in Winchester Bay; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate that our **Umpqua River Lighthouse** is one of 11 historical lighthouses that have guided ships to safe passage along the Oregon Coast for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, we honor our coastal community members, volunteers, county officials and local congressmen that prevented our Umpqua River Lighthouse from being decommissioned in 1985, after the chariot wheels of the clockwork mechanism that rotated the lens broke; and

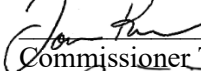
WHEREAS, we are proud to say that in 2010, Douglas County Commissioners Joe Laurance, Doug Robertson and Susan Morgan stepped up to save and take over ownership of the Umpqua River Lighthouse, when the U.S. Coast Guard offered the opportunity for them to operate the light as a Private Aid to Navigation (PATON), so that our cherished icon would continue to operate for many generations to come; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that our lighthouse stands as a testament to the commitment of our Douglas County Commissioners, community members, museum employees, foundation members and volunteers, who have all worked painstakingly and passionately over the years to preserve our lighthouse and coastal history; and

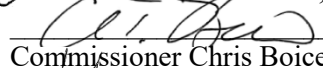
WHEREAS, we know that Douglas County has exceptional volunteers serving our [Umpqua River Lighthouse, Coastal History Museum, Lighthouse Café & Gift Shop, Art Gallery and Whale Watching Station](#); and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the **Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Tom Kress, Chris Boice, and Tim Freeman**, do hereby proclaim Friday, August 7, 2026, as **National Lighthouse Day** in Douglas County and call upon all citizens of Douglas County to support, visit, and volunteer at our Umpqua River Lighthouse and Coastal History Museum.

DATED THIS 29th DAY OF JULY 2026



Commissioner Tom Kress, Chair



Commissioner Chris Boice



Commissioner Tim Freeman

