

WHEREAS; on August 5, 2012, while members of the congregation were preparing for Sunday service and making a free community meal served to all visitors, a white supremacist gunman entered a Sikh Temple, or gurdwara, in Oak Creek and opened fire, killing seven beloved members of the Oak Creek Community; and

WHEREAS; Prakash Singh, 39, lived at the gurdwara where he helped lead daily prayers and was known by his friends and family, including his wife, son, and daughter, as a caring and hard-working individual; and

WHEREAS; Paramjit Kaur Saini, 41, was devoted to her faith and to her family, including her two sons who honored her life by testifying before the U.S. Congress, noting that the gunman “may have been full of hate, but my mother was full of love”; and

WHEREAS; Sita Singh, 41, who, along with his brother, Ranjit, was a granthi who attended to many duties at the gurdwara, is remembered by his family, including his wife, two sons, and two daughters, and his community for his kindness and seva; and

WHEREAS; Ranjit Singh, 49, had been a granthi at the gurdwara for more than a decade and worked hard to secure a bright future for his family by sending money back to them in India, and he is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters; and

WHEREAS; Satwant Singh Kaleka, 65, who was the founding president of the gurdwara and was integral to growing the sangat, lost his life running to confront the shooter, and he is survived by his wife, two sons, and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS; Suveg Singh Khattrra, 84, was a strong and devout man who would spend many hours at the gurdwara, where he was known for offering uplifting scripture passages to members of the sangat, and he is survived by his five children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS; Baba Punjab Singh, 72, who remained almost fully paralyzed after being shot during the attack and passed away on March 2, 2020, from complications related to his injuries, maintained the Sikh spirit of chardi kala, or relentless optimism, even in the face of incredible struggle and is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two sons; and

WHEREAS; 13 years later, the state of Wisconsin continues to be inspired by the perseverance of the survivors and those who were injured during the attack and recognizes the medical and law enforcement professionals—including Lieutenant Brian Murphy and Officer Savan “Sam” Lenda—whose heroic efforts prevented additional loss of life, as well as the public servants who have helped the community heal; and

WHEREAS; the legacies of those seven individuals who were tragically lost will live on forever as they are remembered by their families and community with love and honored through continued acts of service, interfaith collaboration, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS; while this anniversary remains a painful reminder of the work that still must be done to protect all communities in the United States against the rising threat of targeted, hate-fueled violence, it is also a shining example of resilience in the face of tragedy, and a continued, shared hope that a better tomorrow can exist for all; and

‘WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin seeks to honor the seven lives needlessly lost, those who were injured, and all those who will be forever impacted by the mass shooting at the gurdwara in Oak Creek on August 5, 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 5 2025 as

13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAK CREEK SIKH TEMPLE SHOOTING
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 23rd day of July 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State