

THE GREAT SEAL OF
WEST VIRGINIA



Natale E. Lemant

SECRETARY OF STATE

The Great Seal portrays the resources and people of West Virginia through a number of images.

- **Farmer** standing with his plow and ax is a representation of **Agriculture** in the state and the **Miner** with his tools symbolizes **Industry**.
- The **boulder** with “**June 20, 1863**”, has the date of West Virginia’s foundation, etched on it. The boulder is expressive of **continuance** and **stability**.
- The **two rifles** and **Phrygian cap** (cap of liberty) in front of the boulder are emblematic of West Virginia’s liberty, and signifies **freedom** and **liberty** were won and will be kept by the force of arms.
- The motto, “**Montani Semper Liberi – Mountaineers are always free**”, and State of West Virginia are enclosed within the circumference of the Great Seal.

Natalie E. Tennant was sworn in as West Virginia’s 29th Secretary of State on January 19, 2009. Since taking office, Secretary Tennant has focused on initiatives to create an open and engaging government for our citizens, maintaining fair and honest elections and implementing efficient technologies to better serve the businesses and agencies of our state.

The Constitution of West Virginia, Article 2, Section 7, states that:

“The present seal of the State, with its motto “**Montani Semper Liberi**,” shall be the great seal of the State of West Virginia, and shall be kept by the Secretary of State, to be used by him, officially as directed by law.”

