

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1580

WHEREAS, WE THE PEOPLE of the State of Mississippi shall never forget the sacrifices of the members of the American armed forces and shall always stand ready to recognize and honor those who gave the last full measure of devotion for the cause of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek who lost their lives in the line of duty on February 23, 2024, in an AH-64 Apache helicopter crash in Prentiss County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Officer Zemek was born on June 11, 1987, the son of Lewis Zemek Sr. and Sally Zemek, and graduated from New Albany High School in 2005 before enlisting in the Mississippi National Guard where he served with distinction earning the Army Commendation Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Senior Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Master Army Aviator Badge and many other decorations and state awards; and

WHEREAS, Officer Zemek married his wife Robyn three years ago and the couple had four children Avery, Ayden, Swayze and Logan; and

WHEREAS, Officer Zemek lived his life with a passion that matched the intensity of the skies he navigated, and his legacy is a testament to a life lived with purpose, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the skies and the loved ones he cherished; and


WHEREAS, the words of Governor Tate Reeves reflect the thoughts and prayers of the State of Mississippi: "*I want to extend my deepest condolences to the families and friends of our fallen soldiers. We will always remember their honorable service, and we grieve with the families during this tragic time.*"; and

WHEREAS, in the words of the Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard, the loss of Officers Abbott and Zemek "*is a devastating day for the Mississippi National Guard, and this accident serves as a constant reminder of the selfless service, sacrifice and commitment that our brave service men and women face while performing in the line of duty.*"


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, and 4 USC § 7(m) do hereby proclaim a day of official mourning in the State of Mississippi in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek and direct that all flags of the United States of America and the State of Mississippi be flown at half-staff on all buildings and grounds of the State of Mississippi and all areas under its jurisdiction beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in memory of Officer Zemek. Mississippi will forever remember Officer Zemek's devotion and sacrifices for our great Nation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:


MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE