

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1404**

**WHEREAS**, on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Mississippi lost a respected leader and friend with the passing of H.L. "Sonny" Merideth, Jr., former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny was born on December 7, 1930, in Swiftwater, Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, he graduated from Riverside Consolidated High School in Washington County in 1948, received his undergraduate degree in Accounting from Mississippi State University in 1952, and earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1958; and

**WHEREAS**, he was an officer in the United States Air Force and served his country with distinction in the Korean Conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, he practiced law in Greenville, Mississippi, and was elected to represent Washington County in the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served from 1960 until he retired in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny served as Chairman of various committees, including the House Ways and Means Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny received numerous honors including "Outstanding Orator" Award in 1977 by his fellow legislators and "Mississippi Elected Official of the Year" in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonny was known for his tenacious work ethic, sharp mind, integrity, knowledge of House Rules and keen ability to steer bills through the legislative process; and

**WHEREAS**, the prayers of this State are with his wife Linda, children, grandchildren, and other family members and many friends:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim a period of official mourning in the State of Mississippi and do hereby order 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 until sunset on Saturday, September 9, 2017, in remembrance of a dedicated Mississippi public servant, statesman, and a good man, H.L. "Sonny" Merideth, Jr.

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr.".

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.  
SECRETARY OF STATE