WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, Mississippi lost a respected businessman and public servant with the passing of Edwin Clyde “Ed” Neely III, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Ed Neely was born in Greenwood, Mississippi, on October 2, 1939, and grew up in Grenada, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from John Rundle High School and then went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi and his graduate degree from Louisiana State University. He was a graduate of Harvard School for Senior Bank Executives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neely served eight years in the Mississippi Air National Guard, the United States Air Force Reserve and was active duty in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, he began his career as a management trainee with the Grenada Banking System and advanced to office of the President. In 1980, he was elected President and CEO of the People’s Bank and Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, Ed Neely served as Mayor of Tupelo from 2005-2009; and

WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the Community Development Foundation and of United Way, member of Salvation Army Board, 4-H Advisory Board and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neely is survived by his wife, Claudia, two children: Ed IV, Perry, and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of this State are with the family and friends of Ed Neely:

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 order the State Flag on all public buildings and grounds in Tupelo, Mississippi, fly at half-staff beginning at sunrise on Friday, February 23, 2018, and ending at sunset on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in memory of former mayor Edwin Clyde “Ed” Neely, III.

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 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.