WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 3, 2013, Mississippi lost a respected member of its higher education community with the passing of Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, who served as president of Mississippi State University from 1986 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Zacharias is survived by his wife of 53 years, Tommie Kline Zacharias, three adult children and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Zacharias received a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown College in Kentucky in 1957, earned a master’s degree in 1959 and a doctorate in communication in 1963 from Indiana University and held an honorary doctorate of law from Georgetown; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Zacharias's education career began in 1963 as a faculty member in communication at Indiana University, in 1969 he joined the Texas communication department, afterwards holding administrative roles with the University of Texas System, and then spent six years as Western Kentucky’s president before taking the reins at Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Mississippi State University, student enrollment, contributions, research and athletic achievement grew significantly; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of this State, particularly those of the MSU family, are with the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Zacharias;

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 buildings and grounds on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi, fly at half staff beginning at sunrise on Monday, March 4, 2013, and ending at sunset on the day of interment, in memory of a dedicated and respected Mississippi higher education leader, Dr. Donald W. Zacharias.

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 4th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE