

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the members of the Second Continental Congress adopted “The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America,” more commonly known as the Declaration of Independence, declaring to the British Crown why the Thirteen Colonies regarded themselves independent sovereign states and no longer subject to British rule. In this visionary document, Thomas Jefferson, its drafter, animated the new American Nation mooring it in two self-evident truths: [T]hat all men are created equal, [and thereby] endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness;” and “Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” In ratifying and signing the Declaration of Independence, the delegates knew they were committing treason against the British Crown, and that death would be the punishment if captured. In the years that followed, a small rag-tag army of citizen soldiers under the command of General George Washington defeated the mightiest empire and professional army in the world and established the greatest Republic ever to exist; and

WHEREAS, in the words of John Adams to his beloved wife, Abigail, summarizing the events of July 4, 1776: “[T]he greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’”; and

WHEREAS, as recognized by President Ronald Reagan, July 4, 1776, launched “the American vision of creating a new nation of free people, a country that would be a light unto the nations, and a shining city upon a hill. . . . I know that you each will keep faith with that great American dream that burns within our souls and within the soul of every American”; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of annual patriotic celebrations on July 4th became widespread after the defeat of the British in the War of 1812, and Congress declared July 4th to be a federal holiday on June 28, 1870; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Mississippi Code § 3-3-7(1), the fourth day of July is recognized as Independence Day and declared a legal holiday in the State of Mississippi.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and applicable statutes of the State of Mississippi, and consistent with the Federal holiday schedule, do hereby authorize the closing of all offices of the State of Mississippi on Friday, July 3, 2026, in observance of the two hundred and fiftieth birthday of the United States of America. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

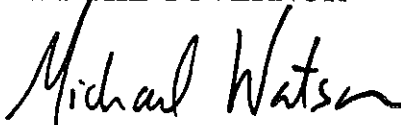


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 28th day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR


MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE