

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1574

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Michael Elaine “Mike” Griffin, a decorated Marine and distinguished law enforcement officer who lost his life in the line of duty on September 4, 2023, at the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, Officer Griffin, the son of the late Sylvesta Elaine and Martha Criswell Griffin was born on July 13, 1961, in Ripley, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Officer Griffin was a 1979 graduate of Ripley High School, and he continued his education at Northeast Mississippi Community College; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Officer Griffin enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country as a Rifleman and Remote Sensor Specialist until 1986; and

WHEREAS, led by his spirit of adventure and public service, in 1987, Officer Griffin joined the Mississippi Highway Patrol and served with distinction first as a State Trooper and then as an Agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigations for thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 1990, Officer Griffin married the love of his life, the former Edna Huddleston of Falkner, and the couple were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Olivia; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021, Officer Griffin was assigned as the Government Affairs Liaison for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, a position he held until his untimely death; and

WHEREAS, Officer Griffin was a man of immense character and kindness, a pillar of his church and community and beloved by all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Officer Griffin’s dedication and heart for public service is best summed up in the words of Governor Tate Reeves: “I’m not in the least bit surprised he was on the side of the road trying to help someone in need—because that was just the kind of person he was. All day and every day. . . a Marine, a State Trooper, a servant of God, and just an all-around good dude”; and

WHEREAS, the outpouring of love and support following the tragic death of this fallen hero reflects the deep appreciation and gratitude of all Mississippians for Officer Griffin and the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of this State are with Officer Griffin’s wife and daughter; one brother, Ricky Griffin; two half-sisters, Diane Cost (David) and Nina Lowry (Paul); a host of nieces, nephews, other family members; his canine companion “Jake” and feline friend, “Belle”; and many friends and the law enforcement community.

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 Officer Michael Elaine “Mike” Griffin 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 Saturday, September 9, 2023. Mike will be remembered as a wonderful and loving husband and father, for his exceptional friendliness and kindness, and for the many positive contributions he made to the Great State of Mississippi.



BY THE GOVERNOR:

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE

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 7th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR