

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1594

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Richard "Rick" Allen Haggard, a dedicated law enforcement officer who lost his life in the line of duty on February 2, 2026, at the age of 52, while honorably and courageously protecting and serving his community; and

WHEREAS, Officer Haggard was born on February 5, 1973, in Macon, Mississippi, the son of Larry Wesley Haggard and Susie Ann Featherston Haggard. He was a graduate of Sturgis High School and Mississippi College. In 2003, Officer Haggard answered a calling that would shape the rest of his life by entering law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career in law enforcement, Officer Haggard proudly served his community in several roles, including Deputy, Animal Control Officer, and School Resource Officer. His work within local schools held special meaning to him, as he was deeply committed to protecting and supporting children and staff alike approaching every responsibility with dedication, compassion, and a genuine desire to help others, no matter the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2006, Officer Haggard married the love of his life, Jana, and the couple had two daughters, Alex and Ava. Family was the center of Officer Haggard's life, and he spoke of his wife and their two daughters with pride and joy at every opportunity. Nothing brought Officer Haggard greater happiness than spending time with his family, whether in everyday moments or special gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Officer Haggard was a devoted public servant whose life was defined by service, integrity, and a deep love for others. In the words of Governor Tate Reeves: *"Officer Haggard, like all of our men and women of law enforcement, represent the very best of Mississippi. All of Mississippi stands with them as we honor and mourn this hero who has been taken from us too soon."*; 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 Haggard and the law enforcement community; and


WHEREAS, the prayers of the State are with Officer Haggard's wife and daughters; his mother, Susie Featherston Noble and step-father, Charlie; his mother-in-law, Kathy Marshall and her husband, Jim; his grandmother-in-law, Janice May; and brother-in-law, Mark Huffman; and a host of other family members, friends, law enforcement officers and faith family members at the Boguefala Baptist Church.

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 SRO Richard "Rick" Allen Haggard 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 Friday, February 6, 2026, in memory of Officer Haggard. Mississippi will forever remember Officer Haggard for his steady presence, his servant's heart, and the lasting impact he made on his family, his colleagues, and the community he so selflessly served. Though his watch has ended, his legacy of love, service and selflessness will live on.



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 6th day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand 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