

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1537

WHEREAS, on Friday, December 18, 2020, Mississippi lost a respected leader, devoted public servant and one of its most influential statesmen with the passing of former Governor William F. Winter at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Governor Winter was born on February 21, 1923, in Grenada, Mississippi and raised on his family's farm; and

WHEREAS, Governor Winter graduated from Grenada High School in 1940, and the University of Mississippi earning a B.A. in 1943 and an LL. B. in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Governor Winter served in the United States Army during World War II as an infantryman in the Philippines, where he attained the rank of captain, and, during the Korean War, was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, while still in law school, Governor Winter was elected to the Mississippi Legislature and was re-elected to two subsequent terms; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, he became the Tax Collector for the State of Mississippi, and was subsequently elected to the offices of State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, he was elected the 58th Governor of the State of Mississippi, serving from 1980 through 1984, with his tenure in office marked by the passage of the landmark Education Reform Act of 1982; and

WHEREAS, following his service as Governor, he remained a passionate and tireless advocate for racial reconciliation both nationally and in Mississippi, receiving a number of awards recognizing those efforts including the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Award, and the National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award, and he also served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which is now housed in the building named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of the State are with his wife Elise Varner Winter, their three daughters, Anne Winter, Lele Gillespie and Eleanor Winter, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchild, and other family members and many friends:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim a period of official mourning in the State of Mississippi and do hereby order 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 from sunrise to sunset on Sunday, December 20, 2020, in remembrance of a dedicated Mississippi public servant and a good man, Governor William F. Winter.

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 19th day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Watson".

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE

