

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1553

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Mississippi Highway Patrol Officer, Trooper John Martin Harris, a courageous officer, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on May 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Harris of Madison, Mississippi was born on May 9, 1977, in Clarksdale, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, since childhood, all Trooper Harris ever wanted to be was a police officer, and he began his law enforcement career in 1997 in Webb, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, following his service in Webb, Trooper Harris served in Friars Point, Mississippi where he earned his first Purple Heart Commendation for suffering an injury in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, following his service in Friars Point, Trooper Harris served with the Madison County Sheriff's Officer, where he earned a second Purple Heart Commendation; and

WHEREAS, following his service in Madison, Trooper Harris served for more than a decade with the Richland Police Department as a K-9 handler with K-9 Officer Boy and as a detective, receiving numerous awards and commendations for merit and valor; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Trooper Harris achieved his lifelong dream when he graduated Cadet Class #62 and became a member of the Mississippi Highway Patrol; and

WHEREAS, for more than three years, Trooper Harris served as a passionate, dedicated public servant and an important member of the Mississippi Highway Patrol receiving many awards and commendations; and

WHEREAS, the outpouring of love and support following the tragic loss of this fallen hero reflect the deep gratitude from the people of the State of Mississippi for Trooper Harris and the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Trooper Harris has left so many suffering and is a stark reminder of how fragile life on Earth can be – and of the sacrifices made each and every day by his fellow Mississippi Highway Patrol Officers and his brothers and sisters in law enforcement across Mississippi and around this great nation; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of this State are with Trooper Harris' wife, Kate Parker Harris; his children, Parker and Cooper; his parents, Jean and Jimmy Harris of Clarksdale, Mississippi; his brothers Andy Harris (Jeanie) of Dallas, Texas, and Lee Harris (Brooke) of Oxford, Mississippi; his mother and father-in-law, Cynthia and Barry Parker of Canton, Mississippi; and all of his other family members and many friends and colleagues.

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 day of official mourning in the State of Mississippi in memory of Trooper John Martin Harris, 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 Tuesday, June 1, 2021.




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 31st day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:


MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE