

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1563

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi mourns the passing of Meridian police officer Kennis Winston Croom, a courageous law enforcement officer who was mortally wounded in the line of duty on June 9, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Croom, the son of Rev. Dr. Kelvin Croom and Tracy Croom, was born on July 2, 1991, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Croom, a graduate of Paul W. Bryant High School and Jackson State University, dedicated his life to helping people, serving his community and making the world a better place, began his career as a law enforcement officer in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, during his career, Officer Croom served as a passionate and dedicated public servant in Mississippi with the Jackson Police Department, Hinds County Sheriff's Office, Brookhaven Police Department, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department and Meridian Police Department, in addition to serving as a patrol officer in Alabama with the Uniontown Police Department, Eutaw Police Department and Vance Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Croom garnered many certifications during his tenure and served as a Crisis Intervention Officer, member of the Special Response Team and was a Narcotics Investigator; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Croom's life of dedicated public service reflected the command of Joshua 1:9 to: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."; and

**WHEREAS**, the outpouring of love and support following the tragic death of this fallen hero reflects the deep gratitude from the people of the State of Mississippi for Officer Croom and the law enforcement community; and

**WHEREAS**, the tragic loss of Officer Croom 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 Officer Croom's brothers and sisters in law enforcement across Mississippi and around this great nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the prayers of this State are with Officer Croom's parents; his children, Ethan Montgomery, Chloe Coleman-Croom and Kenzie Croom; his sisters, Tamara Croom and Teresa Croom (Rodney) Bivens; his brother, Kevin Croom; his uncle, Sylvester (Jeri) Croom; and all of his other family members, many friends and colleagues, and the members of the College Hill Missionary 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 Officer Kennis Winston Croom 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 Thursday, June 16, 2022.



**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:



MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE