

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1570

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Bay St. Louis police officer Branden Paul Estorffe, a courageous law enforcement officer who was mortally wounded in the line of duty on December 14, 2022, at the age of 23; and

WHEREAS, Officer Estorffe, the son of Ian Estorffe and Jennifer Gilkerson, was born on August 16, 1999, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Officer Estorffe was a graduate of Slidell High School and later received his Associate of Arts Degree from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from the Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy, where he was the recipient of the firearms award, Officer Estorffe began his law enforcement career as a Security Forces Officer for the Mississippi Military Department assigned to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, Officer Estorffe joined the Bay St. Louis Police Department as a patrolman; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Bay St. Louis Police Chief Toby Schwartz: "*[Officer Estorffe] had maturity, politeness and a professionalism about him not many 23-year-olds have. . . He worked hard to do his best each and every day, knowing he made his father and every inherited police father and his mother extremely proud. . . Branden's sense of humor always led to a good story. He could lighten anyone's load with his wit and charm.*"; and

WHEREAS, every single day across Mississippi, our law enforcement officers like Officer Estorffe place their lives on the line in constant and repeated acts of selfless sacrifice for their community. They are a key reason that the rest of us are safely and freely able to live our lives. They are the thin blue line; 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 Estorffe and the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Officer Estorffe has left so many suffering in Bay St. Louis and is a stark reminder of how fragile life on Earth can be – and of the sacrifices made each and every day by Officer Estorffe's brothers and sisters in law enforcement across Mississippi and around this great nation; and

WHEREAS, the prayers of this State are with Officer Estorffe's parents; his stepmother Heather Estorffe; his siblings, Lilly and Sophia Estorffe, Jordana and Chloe Gilkerson, and Andrew Porter; his grandparents, Rex and Lynda Estorffe, and Tommy and Sheila Burkett; his aunts and uncles, Lauren and Greg Walters, Jennifer and Jason Polk, and Chad Goodfellow; his girlfriend, Madison Bartlett; and a host of other family members, 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 Branden Paul Estorffe 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 Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Officer Estorffe will always be remembered as someone who loved children, loved laughter, and loved serving others with humility and honor.

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 20th day of December, 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-seventh.




TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:



MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE