

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1588

WHEREAS, WE THE PEOPLE of the State of Mississippi shall never forget the sacrifices made by first responders who protect and aid our communities in times of crisis and emergency, and we shall always stand ready to recognize and honor those first responders who gave the last full measure of devotion in service to our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi mourns the passing of Jakob Kindt, a critical care paramedic and Dustin Pope, a flight nurse and the base supervisor for AirCare in Columbus, both employed by the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and Cal Wesolowski, a pilot with Med Trans Corporation, who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty on Monday, March 10, 2025, in a helicopter crash in Madison County; and

WHEREAS, Jakob Kindt was born in Tupelo on April 9, 1987, and grew up in Mantachie, graduating from Mantachie High School and Itawamba Community College. He was married to Emily Hodges and the couple have two sons. Jakob was a prayer warrior, and he departed this life for his life in eternity doing what he loved, serving others as a critical care master paramedic; and

WHEREAS, Dustin Pope, a life-long resident of Neshoba County, was born on April 15, 1989, and attended Neshoba Central High School and the Mississippi University for Women. He was married to Tabatha Adcock, and the couple have three beautiful children. Dustin was a devout Christian and outdoorsman, with a magnetic personality and a heart for service; and

WHEREAS, Cal Wesolowski was born on July 27, 1962, and graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a BS in Aeronautics. He was married to Krista and they have one daughter. Cal loved flying, he loved his mission, and he loved his crew. Whether it was in his military service, the early years of Guardian Flight, or more recently with Med Trans and AirCare, Cal always felt it was a privilege to get to do what he did and serve the communities where he lived; and

WHEREAS, the words of Governor Tate Reeves reflect the thoughts and prayers of the State of Mississippi: *"The First Lady and I are praying for the victims of today's helicopter crash in Madison County. Please keep the victims' families and coworkers in your prayers. It's a tragic reminder of the risks Mississippi's first responders take every day to keep us safe. Our State will never forget the sacrifice of these heroes."*; and

WHEREAS, today and every day, Mississippi's first responders remain on alert and on call, always there for us when we need them. They are woven into the fabric of our State and Nation, embodying the extraordinary selflessness, rare commitment to others, and remarkable bravery that has inspired us for generations. The outpouring of love and support following the tragic death of these fallen heroes reflects the deep appreciation and gratitude of all Mississippians for the first responder 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 Jakob Kindt, Dustin Pope and Cal Wesolowski 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 Monday, March 17, 2025, in memory of these dedicated and courageous first responders.

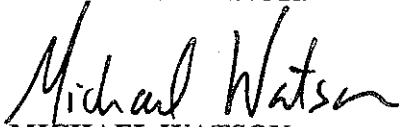


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:


MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE