

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Major Dale W. Richardson, born on May 5, 1941 in Stone County, Arkansas, was a dedicated and courageous soldier who was deeply loved by his family and many friends. Major Richardson was killed in action on May 2, 1970 while flying a mission over South Vietnam on a UH-1H (“Huey”) helicopter. The aircraft was forced into Cambodian airspace by bad weather, where it was hit with enemy fire and forced to land in a rice field on Cambodian soil; and

WHEREAS: Major Richardson was the beloved son of Carl and Edith Richardson; the caring husband of Dianne Anderson; the devoted father of Jacqueline Garberg and Gloria Vranak; the cherished brother of Larry Richardson and Nancy Bowles; a loving member of his extended family; and a loyal friend to scores of people from across the world; and

WHEREAS: Major Richardson joined the United States Army in 1961 and was assigned to the 2nd Armored Cavalry in Germany, where he worked on secret defense contingency plans at the height of the Cold War; and

WHEREAS: Major Richardson was selected for Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and graduated in 1966. He was then assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam and served in combat until August 1967. Major Richardson reenlisted for another two years, and following his marriage, returned to combat and was finishing his second tour in the spring of 1970; and

WHEREAS: Major Richardson and two others were listed as MIA until their remains were found together near the crash site and identified in January 2015. Major Richardson had made the ultimate sacrifice on that fateful day in 1970, three days before his 29th birthday. With his remains identified and returned to American soil, he can now finally be laid to rest; and

WHEREAS: All Arkansans and United States citizens owe Major Dale W. Richardson a lasting debt of gratitude for his bravery and his heroism and should pay tribute to his faithful service; and

WHEREAS: Citizens of this State and Nation extend deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of Major Dale W. Richardson;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, in tribute to the memory of Major Dale W. Richardson and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the United States flag and the state flag of Arkansas be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on August 29, 2015.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State