

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 1971, Pine Bluff native Jim Reed purchased a parcel of land for his family homestead just west of Eureka Springs in the Arkansas Ozarks; and

WHEREAS: In fulfillment of an inspiration to build a glass chapel in the woods on that piece of land to enable wayfarers a place to relax in an inspiring way; and

WHEREAS: The noted professor of architecture at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville E. Fay Jones agreed to design the chapel; and

WHEREAS: Despite financial challenges followed by providential solutions, the chapel opened on July 10, 1980; and

WHEREAS: The simple design and majestic beauty of this forty-eight foot tall wooden and glass structure with more than 6,000 square feet of glass is considered “one of the finest religious spaces of modern time”; and

WHEREAS: The chapel has won numerous architectural awards such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Design of the Year Award for 1981, AIA’s prestigious 25 Year Award, as well as being placed fourth on AIA’s Top Buildings of The Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS: To date, the chapel has been visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors further validating Eureka Springs as an “Extraordinary Escape”; and

WHEREAS: The chapel was instrumental in Eureka Springs being named “Wedding Capital of The South”; and

WHEREAS: The chapel has been and continues to be vital to the success of the tourism industry of Eureka Springs, Northwest Arkansas and the entire state for it is a vital link in the chain of reasons why individuals and motor coach groups visit the area thereby serving to ever increase the gravitas of the state’s number two industry, hospitality;

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, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2015, as

**THORNCROWN CHAPEL DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all Arkansans and all those who visit “The Natural State” to discover the inspiration of this world-renowned structural treasure nestled in the woodlands of Eureka Springs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 2015.



*Asa Hutchinson*  
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Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*Mark Martin*  
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Mark Martin, Secretary Of State