

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: It is important to remember the legacies of great Arkansans that have dedicated their lives to truth, justice and to the betterment of this great nation. Ozell Sutton was such a man; and

WHEREAS: Throughout his 90 years on this earth, Ozell Sutton not only lived to see our country change in many exceptional ways, but he played an important part in leading many of those changes. Born just outside of Gould, Arkansas, in 1925, he was influential in some of the most pivotal struggles for freedom in American history; and

WHEREAS: Ozell Sutton's leadership during the civil rights movement was one of commitment to human rights and racial equality. His leadership was critical when the Little Rock Nine entered Central High School. He took an active role in leading the historic March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. He crossed the bridge in Selma, Alabama and was with Dr. King when he was assassinated in Memphis; and

WHEREAS: After Dr. King's death, Ozell came back to Arkansas to work for Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. While in the Governor's Office he had an active role in guiding Arkansas's desegregation process and working to improve relations between law enforcement and the black community; and

WHEREAS: Ozell then went on to work for the Department of Justice for many years, playing key roles as a mediator during times of national crisis; and

WHEREAS: In addition to all of these accomplishments, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for being one of the first African-Americans to serve in the Marines; and

WHEREAS: Despite his remarkable legacy, Ozell was a man of humility and kindness, devoted to his community and committed to civil rights, which he valued above all his accolades. As a friend to all who knew him, he sought to care for those around him and lead by example; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas mourns the loss of Ozell Sutton and remembers his legacy as a drum major for justice;

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 29, 2015, as

**OZELL SUTTON REMEMBRANCE DAY**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to strive to imitate the life and legacy of this great man.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 2015.



Attest:

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor