

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The officers and members of the Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., American Legion Post #74 and District 15 of the American Legion Department of Arkansas are holding a special memorial observance on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at Sherwood Forest in Sherwood, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The ceremony is designed to honor the memory of ALL of Arkansas's Armed Forces service members killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. To date, according to data from the American Legion Department of Arkansas, our State has lost more than 105 men and women in the war, each of whom paid the ultimate price in defense of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS: Although Hospital Corpsman Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., who served with the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division in Iraq, was the first Iraq War casualty from Arkansas, this ceremony honors ALL those killed in the War on Terror. The members of the American Legion take time to reflect during this 12th anniversary of Corpsman Johnson's death and to remember ALL of our servicemen and women; and

WHEREAS: The mission of American Legionnaires is to serve God, country, the needs of all veterans, their families, their communities and their State. The goal of this memorial is to always pay tribute to those who fought and died in the struggle against terrorism in order to preserve our country's freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS: All Arkansans and United States citizens owe our veterans a lasting debt of gratitude for their bravery and their heroism and should pay homage to their faithful service;

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 our fallen servicemen and women, and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2016, as

**FALLEN HEROES DAY**

in the State of Arkansas, and call upon the citizens of the State to honor our men and women who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, who put themselves in harm's way, and to whom we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude for their heroism.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2016.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State