

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Raymond Hoyt Thornton, Jr., born on June 16, 1928, in Conway, Arkansas, was a former Arkansas Congressman, Arkansas Attorney General, Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court and past president of both the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University. He was deeply loved by his family and many friends; he died April 13, 2016, in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Ray Thornton was a man who had a genuine heart of service for the people of Arkansas. Before ever holding office, Ray Thornton dedicated himself to his country by enrolling in Reserve Officers Training School. He went on to be commissioned in the United States Navy as a lieutenant during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS: On returning home to Arkansas, Ray Thornton completed his law degree at the University of Arkansas School of Law and was elected as the Arkansas Attorney General. He was then elected to the United States House of Representatives, Fourth Congressional District, and served three terms, most notably as a member of the House Judiciary Committee. He was also elected to the United States House of Representatives, Second Congressional District. He served on the Arkansas Supreme Court until his retirement in 2004. He was Chief Justice on the Court for eight years; and

WHEREAS: Ray Thornton made an undeniable impact on higher education in Arkansas, serving as President of Arkansas State University and President of the University of Arkansas. He was tireless in his efforts to secure a strong network of educational institutions and to preserve the integrity of campus landmarks. As an advocate for Old Main at the University of Arkansas, he campaigned to maintain the oldest building on campus; and

WHEREAS: Ray Thornton was a beloved statesman and a servant of the people. He leaves behind a legacy of determination and selfless public service to the people of Arkansas;

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 Ray Thornton 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 April 15, 2016 to sunset on April 19, 2016.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2016.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State