

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Staff Sergeant Robert Dale Van Fossen, born May 3, 1931, was killed in a plane crash on November 22, 1952, while serving in the United States military; and

WHEREAS: In 1947, Sergeant Van Fossen demonstrated his patriotism and commitment to his country through joining the Arkansas National Guard. Soon after, in 1949, he graduated from Greenbrier High School and enlisted in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS: Sergeant Van Fossen attended a language school, where he learned to speak Russian fluently. At the age of 21, he boarded a plane with 51 other military members to become a communication specialist at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The plane experienced harsh weather near the Gulf of Alaska and disappeared. Wreckage from the plane was discovered eight days after its disappearance 50 miles from Anchorage; however, due to intense weather conditions, the recovery team halted its search in the snow after a week; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 60 years later, a Black Hawk Army National Guard unit found wreckage near the crash site, and since then annual missions to the glacier have allowed for the identification of 33 of the 52 members on board; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is proud to bring home Sergeant Van Fossen and to honor his life, accomplishments, and service to his nation;

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 Staff Sergeant Robert Dale Van Fossen and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the state flag of Arkansas be flown at half-staff from sunrise May 25th, 2017 to sunset on May 27th, 2017.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 May 27th, 2017 as

ROBERT DALE VAN FOSSEN MEMORIAL DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2017.





Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Mark Martin, Secretary Of State