

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Americans will observe Flag Day on June 14th, 2017, a traditional time to honor the Nation's symbol of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS: This year we will also commemorate another significant milestone in the history of the United States: the 125th anniversary year of the Pledge of Allegiance; and

WHEREAS: The historic oath was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy for the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day. As a member of the editorial staff of *The Youth's Companion* magazine in Boston, Francis Bellamy chaired a national campaign to arouse civic consciousness in school children as the country prepared to observe the 400th anniversary of America's discovery by Christopher Columbus; and

WHEREAS: The simple yet eloquent words of the Pledge of Allegiance capture both the character of the American people and the principles upon which our Nation was founded. One of the most widely recited verses in American literature, the Pledge of Allegiance offers us an opportunity to reaffirm our belief in the very foundation of government and in the cherished goals toward which we continually strive; and

WHEREAS: We Americans are a diverse people but are united by what we believe. We believe that all men are created equal; we believe in freedom; and we believe in equal opportunity and justice for all. We rededicate ourselves to these eternal truths every time we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS: If we are to protect our precious freedoms, we must ensure that our children and their children understand the ideals embodied in the Pledge of Allegiance. We must instill in future generations a love of liberty and a respect for democracy. We must also teach young people about the significance of responsible citizenship, community service, volunteerism, and the impact the historic oath has had on the social and cultural fabric of America;

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 June 14th, 2017 as

NATIONAL FLAG DAY IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

across the State, and I call upon the people of Arkansas to observe this day by displaying the U.S. Flag, by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public ceremonies, and by participating in other activities as may be organized by local governments and civic organizations in communities across America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2017.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State