

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Samuel Moore Walton was born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, on March 29, 1918, and through his indelible leadership, he built one of the most successful and well-known brands in retail anywhere in the world—Walmart; and

WHEREAS: Sam Walton learned the value of hard work growing up during the Depression, which shaped his ideas about honest business. He started his first retail store, a Ben Franklin franchise, in Newport, Arkansas, after serving his country in the U.S. Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS: In 1950, Walton moved the business to Bentonville, Arkansas, and renamed the store, Walton's Five and Dime, promoting customer self-service and discount merchandising; and

WHEREAS: Walton's vision for changing the customer experience and keeping value and customer service as the guiding principles of his stores challenged him to imagine his business on a larger scale, and in 1962, he opened the first Walmart in Rogers, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Sam Walton believed in rural communities and believed they could support growing retail establishments. He also understood the people in those communities held the key to success—in knowing they were both the loyal customer and the dependable associate; and

WHEREAS: Walton was a pioneer in believing his associates were the foundation to the success of the business, partnering with them and inspiring them to work together to give customers a better life; and

WHEREAS: Because of Sam Walton's bold entrepreneurship, Walmart, is now a household name for families throughout the world;

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 March 29th, 2018, as

SAM WALTON CENTENNIAL DAY

in appreciation of the many contributions of Sam Walton to the State of Arkansas and to its citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 16th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State