

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Harold Lloyd Jenkins, better known as Conway Twitty, was born on September 1, 1933, in Friars Point, Mississippi, with a love for music and baseball. After achieving success as a singer of pop, rock 'n' roll, and country, Twitty passed away doing what he loved on June 5, 1993, while on tour in Branson, Missouri; and

WHEREAS: At an early age, Twitty showed an interest in music, and he formed his first band after his family moved to Helena, Arkansas, when he was only ten years old. His band was named the Phillips County Ramblers; and

WHEREAS: In addition to his musical inclinations, Twitty was a skilled athlete, who was drafted to the Philadelphia Phillies after high school. The United States Army also drafted Twitty at this time, and he lived out his talents while being stationed in Japan by creating a band and playing on the Army baseball team; and

WHEREAS: In the mid-1950s, Twitty was released from the Army and was persuaded by the popularity of Elvis Presley to pursue a musical career at Sun Studios in Memphis, Tennessee. He took a stage name which combined the cities Conway, Arkansas, and Twitty, Texas, to form his new memorable name – Conway Twitty; and

WHEREAS: In 1958, Twitty's first No. 1 hit called "It's Only Make Believe" was at the top of the charts in 22 countries and sold eight million copies. After successfully making pop and rock 'n' roll music, Twitty eventually decided to focus on the genre of music that he truly loved, country; and

WHEREAS: Twitty's first country hit was "Next in Line", and for the next three decades, he had 50 consecutive No. 1 hits, 19 of which were written by Twitty himself. He also received Grammy nominations, appeared in three films, and was nicknamed the "High Priest of Country Music" for his abilities to write and perform country music with his unique signature style; and

WHEREAS: Although Conway Twitty passed away at the young age of 59, he was posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999, and his legendary songs inspired musicians for years to come;

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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as

**CONWAY TWITTY DAY IN ARKANSAS**

in appreciation of Conway Twitty as a song writer, singer, and performer and his contributions in the entertainment industry to the State of Arkansas and to our great nation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018.

  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor



  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State