

# STATE OF ARKANSAS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas correctional officers are on the job every minute of every day to keep the public safe from the state's most threatening offenders. Through secure and humane confinement of thousands of offenders, correctional officers keep the peace and work to change the negative behaviors of those who commit crimes; and

WHEREAS: The demands of correctional officers continue regardless of time or circumstance, and their call to duty is never silenced or muffled by holidays, inclement weather, or natural and man-made disasters. As long as offenders are incarcerated, correctional officers must remain at their posts; and

WHEREAS: Correctional officers must be highly trained to secure and manage the offender population so that conflicts, volatile situations, and crises are handled quickly and expertly. Whenever security is threatened or weakened inside a correctional facility, lives are at stake. The immediate actions and split-second decisions of correctional officers are critical to peaceful outcomes. They must be experts at communication, de-escalation, and conflict resolution, even when their own safety is in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS: Correctional officers continuously monitor offender activities, movement and behavior and remain vigilant for any hint of unrest or conflict. On every shift, they work tirelessly to prevent violence, contraband, and escapes, even though their courage and dedication to public safety often goes unrecognized and underappreciated; and

WHEREAS: As the number of offenders grows, so do the roles of correctional officers. Already difficult duties are made even more complex by the custodial, supervisory, and counseling responsibilities of the job that must be balanced correctly and simultaneously; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of men and women serve as correctional officers at the Arkansas Department of Community Correction, the Arkansas Department Correction, and county and local jails throughout the state. These brave officers demonstrate unwavering commitment to their agencies and to the citizens of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: On May 5, 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Correctional Officers Week and called upon "officials of State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities" to recognize the continuing contributions of correctional officers;

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 May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as

#### CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord 2019.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State