STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Robert Edward Lee, loyal Virginian and resolute Commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, was born on January 19th, 1807, in Stratford Hall, Virginia, and died on October 12th, 1870, in Lexington, Virginia. His father, Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee fought in the Revolutionary War and was honored for his heroic service; and

WHEREAS: Lee was a student of his father's military heroism and his family's impact on society. He believed in a personal code of honor and was educated at the United States's Military Academy at West Point, where he excelled and graduated second in the class of 1829. Following his graduation, Lee married the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington and served twenty-six years in the United States Army Corps of Engineers as an Officer; and

WHEREAS: In 1846, Lee had his first combat assignment for the United States Army alongside General Winfield Scott in the Mexican-American War. Lee proved to be a great leader during the war and achieved the title of Colonel near the war's end at the Battle of Chapultepec; and

WHEREAS: In 1852, Lee became the superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point before joining the United States Cavalry and helping to end the raid at Harper's Ferry. In 1855, Lee left the United States Corps of Engineers and joined the 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS: In 1861, President Lincoln recognized Lee's dedication to duty, as well as his loyal following among the soldiers he commanded and offered him the position of Commander in the United States Federal Army. Lee declined the offer and resigned his commission from the army when Virginia seceded from the Union. Lee's allegiance to his fellow Virginians was never more apparent than with his decision to resign from the United States Army and remain loyal to his Virginia brethren; and

WHEREAS: In 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis offered Lee the command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee accepted and led his troops at the Battle of Second Bull Run, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg—major battles of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS: In 1865, the Civil War ended with Lee's surrender to United States General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House under the condition that his officers and men would keep their side arms and rifles and return home with their private property and horses. Though defeated, Lee maintained the respect and admiration of his soldiers; and

WHEREAS: Robert E. Lee returned to Virginia where he became President of Washington and Lee University. He began the Lexington Law School within the college, promoted the sciences and inaugurated classes in journalism and business that later became the School of Commerce and the School of Journalism. He created the college's code of conduct, which is now called the Honor System. Lee faithfully served as President of Washington and Lee University until his death;

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 October 12th, 2019, as

ROBERT E. LEE MEMORIAL DAY IN ARKANSAS

and I encourage my fellow citizens to remember Robert E. Lee for his steadfast leadership, his commitment to higher education, and his desire to heal the Union.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 6th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

st:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State