

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: John Winfield Walker, born on June 3, 1937, in Hope, Arkansas, was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives for eight years. He was respected by his colleagues and loved by his family and friends. Representative Walker passed away on October 28, 2019. He was a dedicated and caring representative for the people of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Representative Walker was a prominent civil rights attorney and activist. After earning his diploma from Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas, he became the first African American undergraduate student admitted to the University of Texas, but was not allowed to attend for racial reasons. He went on to attend what was formerly known as Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal (AM&N) College in Pine Bluff, earning a degree in Sociology. He later received a master's degree from New York University and a law degree from Yale University. After law school, he worked as an attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF) in New York, where he remained associated as a cooperating attorney and later as a member of the Board of LDF; and

WHEREAS: Representative Walker was a true servant of the people, and in 2010, he was elected by constituents of Pulaski County to serve District 34 as a Representative with the Arkansas House. His fellow legislators were inspired by his kind nature and his eagerness to be a voice for Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: John Walker was a compassionate man whose desire was to serve others in his local community and his state. His Christian perspective empowered him in this life mission, and his passing brings a great loss to the people of Arkansas;

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, in tribute to the memory of John Walker and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the United States flag and the state flag of Arkansas be flown at half-staff from sunrise October 29, 2019, to sunset on the day of interment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2019.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State