

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Silas Herbert Hunt was born on March 1, 1922, in Ashdown, Arkansas, destined to make our world a greater and more noble place, and this February 2<sup>nd</sup> would have marked the day where he became the first African-American student to be admitted into professional studies at the University of Arkansas Law School in the south; and

WHEREAS: Silas earned his diploma from the Booker T. Washington High School in Texarkana, Arkansas, where he excelled as member of the debate team, class president, and graduated in the class of 1941 as class salutatorian. He went on to attend what was formerly known as the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal (AM&N) College in Pine Bluff, where he worked many jobs to pay for his education, but his education was halted after he enlisted into the U.S. Army, where he served in the 732<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, then the later stages of the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded and honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS: Silas returned to Arkansas AM&N, where he received a scholarship, earning a degree in English. After being accepted by the University of Indiana School of Law, Silas discovered a former Arkansas AM&N alumni overturned the University of Oklahoma's policies against African-American students. After this discovery, Hunt, with the help of the president of Arkansas AM&N, applied for the University of Arkansas Law School on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1948, where he was accepted; and

WHEREAS: Silas became the first African-American student to be accepted for professional studies in a southern university since reconstruction. Soon after his acceptance, he left his studies due to illness and shortly passed away after on April 22, 1949 and;

WHEREAS: Silas was a pioneer in the civil rights movement and was a trailblazer for future activists, and his achievements inspired many to follow his legacy;

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 February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, as

**SILAS HUNT DAY**

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge my fellow citizens to celebrate the memory of Silas Hunt by participating in the many activities and opportunities available in the State during this day of service.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2020.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

*John Thurston*  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State