

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The 15th Annual Tribute to Fallen Heroes ceremony is designed to honor the memory of ALL of Arkansas's Armed Forces service members killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. To date, according to data from the American Legion Department of Arkansas, our State has lost more than 105 men and women in the war, each of whom paid the ultimate price in defense of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS: Although Hospital Corpsman Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., who served with the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division in Iraq, was the first Iraq War casualty from Arkansas, this ceremony honors ALL those killed in the War on Terror. The members of the American Legion take time to reflect during this 17th anniversary of Corpsman Johnson's death and to remember ALL of our servicemen and women; and

WHEREAS: In this year of centennial for the American Legion, the State of Arkansas pays tribute to those who have fought and died to preserve freedom and democracy. We owe our veterans a lasting debt of gratitude;

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 our fallen servicemen and women, and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby proclaim April 13th, 2020, as

FALLEN HEROES DAY

in the State of Arkansas, and I call upon the citizens of the State to honor our men and women who died in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, who put themselves in harm's way, and to whom we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude for their heroism.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary Of State