

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: United States Navy Seaman First Class Ernest Ray West was born on October 10, 1919, and raised in Runnells, Polk County, Iowa. Due to tragic and unforeseen circumstances, his life was taken during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS: On December 7, 1941, “the date which will live in infamy,” the USS Oklahoma was struck by multiple torpedoes and immediately capsized, killing 429 crewmen, including West; and

WHEREAS: West’s family was notified that he was “missing in action” and “presumed dead,” but they clung to hope that he survived; and

WHEREAS: Through recent DNA samples from his sister, West’s remains were identified after 77 years, and he will be brought home to rest in Arkansas with his family; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is honored to bring home Seaman Ernest Ray West and to remember his life and service to this nation;

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 Seaman First Class Ernest Ray West and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the state flag of Arkansas be flown at half-staff from sunrise September 19, 2019, to sunset on September 20, 2019.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 September 20, 2019, as

ERNEST RAY WEST MEMORIAL DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2019.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary Of State