

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Kaneaster Hodges Jr., former interim U.S. senator for Arkansas, passed away on March 23, 2022. A dedicated and caring public servant for the people of Arkansas, Hodges's contributions to our state will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS: Born on August 20, 1938, to Harryette Hodges and Kaneaster Hodges Sr. as one of six children, Hodges graduated from Newport High School before obtaining his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1960. He then attended Southern Methodist University, receiving a master's degree in theology. In 1967, he earned his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law where he was also editor in chief of the *Arkansas Law Review*; and

WHEREAS: Upon his admittance to the Arkansas bar, Hodges opened his own law firm and also served as city attorney of Newport and deputy prosecuting attorney for Jackson County. He later served as legislative secretary to Governor David Pryor, chairman of the state Natural Heritage Commission and as a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS: Hodges was key in coordinating David Pryor's victorious campaign for governor in eastern Arkansas. After the death of U.S. Senator John L. McClellan, Governor Pryor appointed Hodges as interim senator, a position he held until January 3, 1979. In total, Hodges served approximately 13 months as senator and was awarded the Conservationist of the Year Award for his efforts to negotiate a compromise between environmentalists and supporters of the channelization of the Cache River; and

WHEREAS: After his time as senator, Hodges returned to Newport and practiced law. He remained active in Arkansas, serving on boards for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, the Arkansas Nature Conservation Foundation, Winrock International, and the Arkansas Justice Foundation; and

WHEREAS: Throughout his life, Hodges was a devout Methodist, and he continued to preach throughout his other professional endeavors. An ordained minister and deacon in the United Methodist Church, Hodges's values were exemplified throughout his words and actions and impacted countless individuals;

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 former U.S. Senator Hodges and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct the United States flag and the Arkansas State flag be flown at half-staff from March 25, 2022, to 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 25th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State