



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2022-16

FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – ANTHONY C. “BUDDY” LEACH, JR.

WHEREAS, Anthony Claude “Buddy” Leach, Jr., a distinguished citizen, public servant, former member of the Louisiana Legislature and a former member of Louisiana’s Congressional delegation, died on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at the age of 88;

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of more than fifty years, Laura Alexander Leach; daughters Mary Leach Werner and Lucy Leach Davenport, and son Claude, as well as nine grandchildren;

WHEREAS, born on March 30, 1934 in Leesville in Vernon Parish, Buddy Leach graduated from Louisiana State University before serving his nation honorably in the United States Army from 1956-1959 and the Army Reserve from 1959-1962; he returned to Louisiana and earned his law degree, also from Louisiana State University, before starting a long and storied career in business and politics;

WHEREAS, he served the people of his home state of Louisiana for four terms in the House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature, from 1968-1979, and again from 1984-1988;

WHEREAS, in 1979, he left his seat in the Legislature and successfully ran to represent Louisiana’s Fourth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, Leach was an indefatigable champion of Louisiana’s industry, culture, and environment; among his many accomplishments, he and Laura have helped to revitalize the industrial corridors of the southwestern parts of our state, made generous endowments to educational institutions throughout Louisiana, and restored thousands of acres of marshland;

WHEREAS, after being stricken with polio as a young man, he spent a lifetime working tirelessly to benefit the cause of disabled children and to support related charitable organizations, including the Louisiana Lions League for Crippled Children; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Leach lived a life of faith, integrity, and honor, and his tireless leadership as a public servant, an entrepreneur, and a philanthropist to the people of the state of Louisiana and the United States will long be remembered.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: As an expression of respect and to honor Anthony Claude “Buddy” Leach, Jr., the flags of the United States and the State of Louisiana shall be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol and all state buildings from sunrise until sunset on Friday, August 12, 2022.

SECTION 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset on Friday, August 12, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana on this 8th day of August, 2022.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE