

State of Louisiana



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-162**

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – HONORABLE JUDGE JULES
EDWARDS, III***

WHEREAS, Jules David Edwards, III was born on November 14, 1957, in New Orleans, Louisiana to his loving parents, Jules Edwards, Jr. of New Orleans and Lona Broussard of Kaplan, and he was one of five of their children; and

WHEREAS, he had an extensive education, as he attended St. Stephen's School, De La Salle High School, Loyola University, Louisiana State University, and the United States Army War College;

WHEREAS, he began his military career in 1977 when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He later joined the United States Army Reserve, serving in the Infantry and the Artillery units and as Inspector General for the 256th Infantry Brigade. He also served as the Judge Advocate General's Corps;

WHEREAS, Colonel Jules David Edwards, III retired from the Louisiana Army National Guard on March 15, 2007 and was recognized as the best Judge Advocate in the United States at that time;

WHEREAS, he had an extensive legal career, serving as an Indigent Defender attorney in New Orleans, an Assistant District Attorney in New Orleans, legal counsel for the Louisiana Senate in Baton Rouge with special emphasis on research and legislation for the Louisiana Select Committee on Crime and Drugs, and he also worked with his wife and law partner Orida with the firm Edwards and Edwards LLC;

WHEREAS, he began his judicial career in 1993 after he was initially elected to Division "B" of the 15th Judicial District Court;

WHEREAS, Judge Edwards served as Chief Judge of the 15th Judicial District Court from 2001 through 2003; and

WHEREAS, Judge Edwards most recently served as Lafayette City Court Judge, Division “A”, where he was elected beginning to serve in January 2023;

WHEREAS, in the judiciary, Judge Edwards served in many roles during his tenure as a judge, including serving as President of the Louisiana District Judges Association from 2014 to 2015; serving on the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education; serving on the Louisiana Drug Policy Board, and serving as a member of the DWI – Task Force; and serving as Louisiana’s Judicial Outreach Liaison;

WHEREAS, he was well known as a pioneer for his efforts in the Drug Court and Re-entry Court movement, as well as his advocacy for Veteran’s Court. He was well known for his work and advocacy at our State Capitol;

WHEREAS, his passion for serving the judicial and legal communities were well known, and in recognition of his hard work and efforts, he was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame;

WHEREAS, he will be remembered as a wise and patient man who used his talents and abilities to help others;

WHEREAS, in 1986, he married his Loyola Law School classmate, Orida Broussard, and together, they made Lafayette their home;

WHEREAS, together they had three children: Jules IV, Juliesa, and Julien Sr., and one grandchild, Julien Jr.;

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Orida; their three children – Jules, Juliesa, and Julien Sr. (Brittany); one grandson, Julien Jr.; four siblings – Dow Michael, Lona (Jonn), Damian (Angelique), and Lori (David); uncles – Preston Edwards Sr. (Rosa), Calvin Noel Jr. (Lavernia), and Alvin Noel; aunts – Vivian Edwards and Emma Noel (Herbert); sisters-in-law – Barbara Broussard (Russell), Betty Davis, Shirley Stelly, and Colonel Margaret Bates (Colonel Gerald Bates); brother-in-law, Henry John Broussard; four godchildren – Lori Gilyot, Adiaha Brown, Dow Michael Edwards II, and Analise Edwards; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends;

WHEREAS, was preceded in death by his parents, Jules Edwards, Jr. and Lona Broussard Edwards; his grandparents, Jules Edwards, Delphine Leary, Ida Sellers Broussard and Luke Broussard; several aunts and uncles; one sister-in-law, Lisa Gray Edwards; his wife’s parents and grandparents – Mary Louversa Baltazar, Henry Broussard, Percy Baltazar,

Daisy Noel Thibodeaux, and Calvin Noel Sr.; and a host of other relatives and ancestors;

WHEREAS, he will long be remembered and honored as a loving family man and for his countless contributions to the judiciary, the legal community, and our entire State as a pillar of the legal community; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana owes a debt of gratitude to his many contributions to the legal community and our state.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, 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 the Honorable Jules Edwards, III, 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 October 26, 2024.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, October 26, 2024.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana on this 23rd day of October 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE