



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2022-13**

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***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DR. JOHN C. COOKSEY***

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**WHEREAS,** Dr. John Charles Cooksey, a former distinguished member of the United States House of Representatives for Louisiana’s 5th District, died on June 4, 2022, at the age of 80;

**WHEREAS,** he is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Ann Grabill Cooksey, and their three daughters, Karen, Carol Ann, and Catherine; grandchildren Sarah, Grace, Sophie, Claire, Charlotte, Lilly, and Margot; as well as his sister Betty and brother Hank, along with many nieces, nephews, and countless friends;

**WHEREAS,** born the son of Ruth Lee and Henry Oscar Cooksey in 1941 in Alexandria, Louisiana, and raised in Central Louisiana, he learned early the value of hard work and good education from his parents and his community;

**WHEREAS,** he honorably served his nation overseas in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, as well as stateside in the Louisiana Air National Guard; as a pioneering ophthalmologist, he restored the gift of sight to thousands at home and abroad, notably founding an ophthalmic clinic in Kenya;

**WHEREAS,** he served his state and his district of Northeast and Central Louisiana in the United States House of Representatives for three years, from 1997 to 2003, and fighting tirelessly to represent the interests of the people of our state; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. John Charles Cooksey, lived a life of faith, integrity, and honor, and his service as a public servant and lawmaker to 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 Dr. John C. Cooksey, 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 Thursday, June 16, until sunset on Friday, June 17, 2022.

**SECTION 2:** This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, June 17, 2022.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

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**GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**

**ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

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**SECRETARY OF STATE**