



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-104**

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
REPRESENTATIVE JACQUELYN “JACKIE” SOPHIE
BRECHTEL CLARKSON***

WHEREAS, Jacquelyn “Jackie” Sophie Brechtel Clarkson, a former distinguished member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, passed away on June 26, 2024;

WHEREAS, she was born on January 17, 1936, in New Orleans, Louisiana to John Patrick Brechtel, Jr. and Sophie Berengher Brechtel;

WHEREAS, she graduated from Martin Behrman High School before attending Tulane University;

WHEREAS, in December of 1977, Jackie married her high school sweetheart Arthur “Buzz” Clarkson, and together they had 5 daughters, Jacquelyn Rutgers Clarkson, Cynthia Clarkson Alsfeld (Lenny), Diane Clarkson Hastings (Scott), Kevin Clarkson Sanders (Mike), and Patricia Davies Clarkson, 10 grandchildren, William Michael Sanders, Jr. (Sarah), Elizabeth Sanders Greyson (Lukas), Katherine Hastings Lewis (Peter), Margaret Alsfeld Kaul (Chris), Mary Caswell Alsfeld, Arthur Alexander Clarkson Sanders (Molly), Leonard Clarkson Alsfeld (Ashlyn), John McWilliams Alsfeld (Mary Robin), Scott Davis Hastings, Jr. (Sissi), Reginald Lee Hastings, II (Liz), and 16 great grandchildren in their 71 years of marriage;

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved sister, Jeanne Brechtel Battistella, and her brother, John Patrick Brechtel, III;

WHEREAS, she worked in real estate for over 20 years, and she owned or managed three major firms, including her own, Jacquelyn Clarkson, Realtors, before entering politics, earning the Graduate, REALTOR Institute designation and held the CRB and CRS certifications, and she was extremely proud to serve as the second female President of the Louisiana Realtors Association;

WHEREAS, she served as member of the New Orleans City Council for many years, being named president of the Council in 2011, and while on the City Council, she brought the House of Blues to the French Quarter and coordinated the transformation of the Fisher Housing Development into a neighborhood in Algiers, served as a leader in re-invigorating New Orleans' cultural economy, brought artists back to Jackson Square, and worked tirelessly to clean up the French Quarter, the heart of New Orleans' tourism economy;

WHEREAS, as City Council President and Budget Chairman, she helped restore the city's bond rating and authored legislation that placed the Office of the Inspector General and its budget in the City's Charter, she led the re-opening of the Mahalia Jackson Center for the Performing Arts and helped secure a public-private partnership to reopen the Saenger Theatre, and she authored legislation that created the city's first Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and placed it in the City's Charter, giving it the force of law;

WHEREAS, she served in the Louisiana House of Representatives as the representative for District 102 for 8 years, where she focused on landmark legislation for women's health and safety, child protection, law enforcement, neighborhood preservation and governmental reform;

WHEREAS, she was the lead author of the first genetic testing bill in Louisiana - and one of the first in the country - that blocked insurance industry discrimination based on the results of DNA testing, she authored legislation that broadened access to mammograms, her "stalking" bill moved Louisiana to the forefront for effective prosecution of that criminal offense, and she was integral in the development of the LSU/Tulane Cancer Research Center Consortium, the LSU/Tulane academic teaching hospital and the V.A. Hospital in downtown New Orleans;

WHEREAS, she was known as the "Lady in Red" for her signature red outfits and was a key leader during a critical period in New Orleans history;

WHEREAS, she was an outspoken advocate for the New Orleans Recreation Department in the opportunities for children while in office;

WHEREAS, she secured the initial state funding for the National World War II Museum, bringing it to New Orleans and making it a national destination, serving as one of its first board members;

WHEREAS, she was named honorary consul of Lithuania in New Orleans in December 2014;

WHEREAS, she served on numerous boards, including the University of New Orleans board for Business and High Education, the Catholic Cultural Heritage Center of New Orleans Board, the Overture to the Cultural Season Board, the Board of Ambassadors to Holy Cross College, the advisory board for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and the advisory board for the New Orleans Ballet Association;

WHEREAS, she earned many awards and honors, including an Honorary Doctorate degree from Our Lady of Holy Cross College, the American Spirit Medallion from the National World War II Museum, VCPORA's Schwartz-Gage Award for French Quarter Historic Preservation, induction into the Louisiana Center for Women in Government and Business Hall of Fame, and NOMAR's Philippi St. Pe' Lifetime Achievement Award;

WHEREAS, three separate branches of the U.S. Military recognized Jackie for her service: The Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Station designated Jackie an Honorary Admiral; the Coast Guard gave her a special Commendation, and the U.S. Marines held a special flag ceremony in her honor;

WHEREAS, Jackie Clarkson's legacy as a public servant and leader to the people of New Orleans will long be remembered for her dedication to the community;

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 Jacquelyn "Jackie" Brechtel Clarkson, 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 July 9, 2024.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset,
July 9, 2024.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana on this 8th day of July, 2024.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE