

# State of Louisiana



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2021 – 5

#### *FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – MICHAEL HANLEY O'KEEFE*

- WHEREAS,** Michael Hanley O'Keefe, a former distinguished member of the Louisiana Legislature, died at the age of 89 on Sunday, January 31, 2021;
- WHEREAS,** he is survived by his two children and three grandchildren;
- WHEREAS,** he served his nation honorably in the Military Police of the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas;
- WHEREAS,** he served his state and his home of New Orleans in the Louisiana Legislature for twenty-three years, first elected to the State Senate in 1959, and serving for six terms until 1984;
- WHEREAS,** in 1960, he introduced the first bill to integrate Louisiana's public school system; and in his early career he often stood out as a lone voice in state government against segregationist policies;
- WHEREAS,** after the adoption of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, he became the first Senate President elected by his peers, and he served in that capacity until his retirement from politics; and
- WHEREAS,** Michael O'Keefe's public service as a lawmaker to the State of Louisiana 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 for Michael Hanley O'Keefe, the flags of the United States and the State of Louisiana shall be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol from sunrise until sunset on Saturday, February 6, 2021.
- SECTION 2:** This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, Saturday, February 6, 2021.



**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 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE