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 4th day of February, 2021.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE