WHEREAS, Honorable Dr. Donald Elliott "Doc" Hines died on June 18, 2019, at the age of 85;

WHEREAS, born in Bunkie, on November 14, 1933, he was a lifelong resident of the community and practiced as a family physician;

WHEREAS, he graduated from Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (SLI) in Lafayette and received his Doctor of Medicine from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hines served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Navy from 1959 to 1963 and was awarded the Commendation Medal by the United States Navy in 1963 for bravely jumping out of a helicopter into the swamps south of New Iberia to save fellow military servicemen who were stranded and in need of medical attention following the crash of an aircraft;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hines began his medical practice in Bunkie in 1966 and was a member of the Louisiana Medical Society and the Avoyelles Parish Medical Society;

WHEREAS, he served on the Avoyelles Parish School Board in 1972 and continue to serve until he was elected to the State Senate in 1993;

WHEREAS, Hines was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission from 1984 to 1990 where he ultimately served as Chairman;

WHEREAS, from 1993 to 2008, Dr. Hines was a member of the Louisiana State Senate for District 28 and served as the Senate President from 2004 to 2008;

WHEREAS, while in the Senate, he was one of leading members in helping with the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina, including securing funding to transform the Haas Audtorium in Bunkie, Louisiana, into a hurricane evacuation and civic center;

WHEREAS, his love for people and his passion for quality medical care was evident as he chaired the task force that created the Louisiana Children’s Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) and authored the Rural Hospital Preservation Act, the Senior Prescription Program, and helped to establish the Gene Therapy Research Initiative;

WHEREAS, Hines received the Avoyellean of the Year by the Avoyelles Journal in 1995 and was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield in 2006;

WHEREAS, in his later years, Dr. Hines fostered a strong relationship with the Casa Aleluya Orphanage in Guatemala that inspired him to initiate several projects such as telemedicine and new dialysis equipment to ensure that the children had access to medical care, as well as instrumental in the purchase of a portable X-Ray and Film Reader and other lab services for the medical clinic at the orphanage;

WHEREAS, for his contributions in Guatemala, he was honored by the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth and recognized as the Global (International) Champion of the Year 2013; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Hines is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, the former Jacqueline Ewing of Marksville; six children, Donna Louise Newton (Jordan) of Bunkie, Richard Arvie Hines (Andres) of Lafayette, Christopher Arthur Hines (Deidre) of Bunkie, Henry Arthur Hines of Bunkie, Scott Alan Hines (Laura) of Lafayette, and Virginia Marie Long (Chase) of Bunkie; 21 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

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 the Honorable Dr. Donald Elliott “Doc” Hines, 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 on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

SECTION 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, Thursday, June 20, 2019.

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 19th day of June, 2019.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE