

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our great Nation, we have been reminded that nature is an awesome force and that all life is precious and fragile. One such reminder was delivered on August 29, 2005, at 8:29 a.m. when Hurricane Katrina made landfall for its third time near the Louisiana-Mississippi border as a Category 3 storm with sustained winds of 120 mph; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina's powerful right-front quadrant passed over the west and central Mississippi coast, causing a 27-foot storm surge that penetrated 6 miles inland in many areas and up to 12 miles inland along bays and rivers, bringing strong winds to the entire State--with hurricane-force winds being recorded more than 150 miles inland, spawning tornadoes statewide and dumping 8-10 inches of rain across the State; and

WHEREAS, millions of lives were changed on that day by the cruel and destructive forces of Hurricane Katrina resulting in an estimated 1,392 fatalities, with 238 dead and 67 missing in Mississippi, and more than \$125 billion in damage; and

WHEREAS, while Hurricane Katrina brought many days, weeks and months of struggle and sorrow, it inspired extraordinary acts of heroism, courage and kindness. First responders and concerned residents across the State and the country risked their lives to save others and performed selfless acts under the most difficult of circumstances motivated by a sense of love and duty greater than their own suffering. Americans rallied to help their neighbors in need, providing food, water, shelter and hope. In those dark days, Mississippi and the Nation revealed a resilience more powerful than any storm; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the storm, Mississippians demonstrated a spirit that cannot be broken, a core strength that survives all hurt, a faith in God that no storm can take away and an unyielding determination to clear the wreckage and build back our communities better than they were before; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Governor Haley Barbour, who led Mississippi's recovery efforts: *"This was the worst natural disaster in American history at the time when it struck. And I said then it was fitting that the worst disaster in American history would bring out the most volunteerism, the most giving, the most charity, and it did. I believe the response of the people of Mississippi and the way they were strong, resilient, self-reliant people, did more to improve Mississippi's image than anything in my lifetime";* and

WHEREAS, in the years following Katrina, Federal, State and local governments have worked to enhance our collective ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. Annual reviews of preparedness and response efforts are conducted, which have resulted in improved communications and coordination, and strengthening emergency response capabilities. Mississippians should be confident that if we face another destructive storm, the State is better prepared to protect life and property as a result of the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, August 29, 2025, the State of Mississippi, in conjunction with the Mississippi National Guard, will host a ceremony at Barksdale Pavillion at Jones Park in Gulfport to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall. The ceremony will open at 8:29 a.m. with a minute of silence in memory of the lives lost, recognition of the resilience of our communities and reflection on the journey of recovery and hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim August 29, 2025, as

HURRICANE KATRINA REMEMBRANCE DAY

in the State of Mississippi, and I proclaim that at 8:29 a.m. a minute of silence shall be observed throughout the State in memory of the lives lost, recognition of the resilience of our communities and reflection on the journey of recovery and hope.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 26th day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR



MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE