



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2020-20

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
FORMER GOVERNOR MURPHY J. “MIKE” FOSTER, JR.***

- WHEREAS,** former Governor Murphy James “Mike” Foster, Jr. died on October 4, 2020, at the age of 90;
- WHEREAS,** on January 8, 1996, Murphy J. Foster, Jr. was sworn in as the 53rd governor of the State of Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** on January 10, 2000, he again took the oath of office for a second term as the Governor of Louisiana, serving until January 12, 2004;
- WHEREAS,** with vision and integrity, Governor Foster united the people of Louisiana to bring the state into this new century;
- WHEREAS,** Murphy James Foster, Jr. was born in Franklin, Louisiana, on July 11, 1930, the son of Murphy and Olive Foster and the grandson of Louisiana’s 31st Governor, Murphy J. Foster;
- WHEREAS,** he proudly served his nation during the Korean War, serving in the United States Air Force from 1952 until 1956;
- WHEREAS,** before serving in the state’s top office, he served in the Louisiana Senate, representing Louisiana’s 21st Senatorial District;
- WHEREAS,** fifty-two years after graduating from Louisiana State University with a degree in chemistry, Governor Foster demonstrated a lifelong commitment to learning and knowledge when he earned his Juris Doctorate from the Southern University Law Center in 2004, having completed his course of legal studies during his tenure as Governor of Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** Governor Foster was a champion of education and educators, creating the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, dramatically expanding the state’s Taylor Opportunity Program for Students to provide greater access to college education to Louisiana’s youth, and successfully fighting to raise public teachers’ wages six of the eight years he served in office;
- WHEREAS,** a relative latecomer to politics, he began his career in the public spotlight at the age of 57 with his 1987 election to the Louisiana Senate, and he quickly rose in public stature for eight years before his historic victory in the 1995 race for Governor;
- WHEREAS,** in 2003, Governor Foster was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame;
- WHEREAS,** Governor Foster was married to his loving wife and biggest supporter, Alice, for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, a veteran, a businessman and a sportsman, Governor Foster was a man of strength, vision, integrity, and faith; and while he will be greatly missed, the legacy of his work on behalf of the people of Louisiana will live on for generations to come.

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 former Governor Murphy James “Mike” Foster, Jr., 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 on October 5, 2020, through sunset on October 9, 2020.

SECTION 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, October 9, 2020.



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 October, 2020.

s/John Bel Edwards

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE