



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS;** Ronald W. Wehlage, Jr. dedicated his life to serving his community as an EMT/firefighter/fire marshal; and

**WHEREAS;** Lt. Wehlage first joined Missouri's fire service as a member of the Hillsboro Fire Protection District in May, 1999, and went on to serve as an EMT with the North Jefferson County Ambulance District and the Valley Ambulance District; and

**WHEREAS;** Lt. Wehlage joined the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District as a volunteer firefighter in April, 2003, and became a full-time firefighter with the district on February 2, 2004, and through his demonstrated leadership and commitment to professionalism and advancing fire safety in the district, rose to the rank of Lieutenant and Fire Marshal; and

**WHEREAS;** Lt. Wehlage faithfully and honorably served in the district for more than 17 years, including performing fire safety education events for schools, community members, and members of the media; and

**WHEREAS;** Lt. Wehlage was an active member of professional and fraternal organizations focused on improving fire safety through training and raising awareness of the concerns of firefighters, including the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri, Jefferson County Fire Investigation Team, Jefferson County Firefighters Association, Jefferson County Fire Marshal's Association, and Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association; and

**WHEREAS;** on June 28, 2020, Lt. Wehlage was among the firefighters who responded to a reported structure fire; and

**WHEREAS;** Lt. Wehlage died in the line of duty on June 30, 2020, following a medical emergency; and

**WHEREAS;** firefighters courageously and selflessly devote their lives to ensuring the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS;** the people of the State of Missouri are thankful for the sacrifices of the brave emergency responders who risk their own lives to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, as a mark of respect for the death of

**LT. /FIRE MARSHAL RONALD W. WEHLAGE, JR.**

and for his bravery and service to the DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District and the citizens of Jefferson County do hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of Missouri shall be flown at half-staff at every fire station in the State of Missouri and at the Fire Fighters Memorial, located in Kingdom City, Missouri, and at all government buildings in Jefferson County from sunrise until sunset on July 8th, 2020.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2020.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE