



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Officer Kendle G. Blackburn graduated from the Eastern Missouri Law Enforcement Training Academy in December, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Blackburn bravely and selflessly devoted more than 21 years of his life to serving as a law enforcement officer, protecting the citizens of Laclede County beginning in 1999 as a member of the Laclede County Sheriff's Office and then as a member of the Lebanon Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Blackburn faithfully served the citizens of Lebanon as a member of the Lebanon Police Department for more than 16 years and was known for his professionalism and kindness toward those he encountered; and

**WHEREAS**, Officer Blackburn was among the many law enforcement officers from across Missouri who have bravely risked their own health and safety by responding to emergency calls during the novel coronavirus pandemic, which resulted in a state of emergency declaration in Missouri and a federal disaster declaration for all 50 states; and

**WHEREAS**, after a valiant fight, Officer Blackburn died in the line of duty on December 28, 2020, following exposure to coronavirus in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement officers courageously and unselfishly strive to ensure the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of the State of Missouri are thankful for the brave individuals in law enforcement who consider the welfare of others a personal responsibility and work tirelessly to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

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

**OFFICER KENDLE G. BLACKBURN**

and for his bravery and service to the Lebanon Police Department, do hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Missouri shall be flown at half-staff at all government buildings in Laclede County for one full day on January 2, 2021, from sunrise to sunset.

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 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE