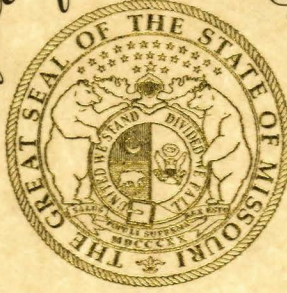


*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief Matthew "Matt" Tobben devoted over 19 years of his life to the fire service and serving the people of Franklin and Boone counties and the State of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2005, Assistant Chief Tobben joined the Union Fire Protection District as a Firefighter, and after 19 years of service rose to the rank of Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Tobben's public service included working as an Emergency Medical Technician with the St. Clair Ambulance District from 2007 to 2013 and the Union Ambulance District from 2007 to 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2012, Assistant Chief Tobben joined Missouri Task Force 1 as a Rescue Specialist and after 12 years of service rose to the rank of Rescue Squad Officer. As a member, Assistant Chief Tobben was deployed to seven national disasters, including Hurricane Sandy in New York City in October 2012, Hurricane Florence in Brunswick County, North Carolina, in September 2008, and Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, in September 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief Tobben joined the Boone County Fire Protection District as an Assistant Chief of Training on May 1, 2024; and during his distinguished fire service career, was recognized as Top Responder from 2007 to 2010 and Firefighter of the Year in 2022, and had recently participated in two lifesaving water rescues, including the rescue of two flooding victims on July 3, 2024, and an equine water rescue on July 4, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Chief Tobben responded to the scene of an early-morning mutual aid water rescue call with the City of Columbia Fire Department during early-morning flash flooding on July 8, 2024, and after heroically performing the swift water rescue of two individuals from Bear Creek with a Columbia Fire Department Firefighter, Assistant Chief Tobben was thrown from an overturned Zodiac boat and drowned; and

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

**ASSISTANT CHIEF MATTHEW "MATT" TOBBEN**

and for his bravery and service to the Boone County Fire Protection District and the citizens of Boone 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 Boone County from sunrise until sunset on July 13, 2024.

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.



*Michael L. Parson*

Michael L. Parson  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Jay Ashcroft*

SECRETARY OF STATE