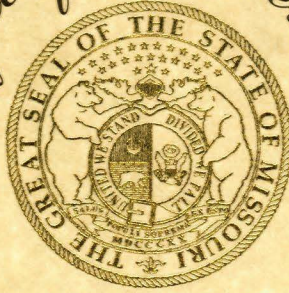


*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Captain James "Jim" Cova faithfully devoted over 26 years of his life to the fire service and serving the people of St. Louis County and the State of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Cova joined the Frontenac Fire Department on October 15, 1997, and honorably served the department for almost four years; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Cova joined the Affton Fire Protection District on September 15, 2001, and through his dedication to service and leadership was promoted to Lieutenant in 2008 and Captain in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, On July 9, 2024, after responding to several emergency calls, Captain Cova suffered a medical emergency while on duty and was found deceased in Affton Fire Protection District Firehouse 1; 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

**CAPTAIN JAMES "JIM" COVA**

and for his bravery and service to the Affton Fire Protection District and the citizens of St. Louis County, Missouri, 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 18, 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.



*Michael L. Parson*

*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Jay Ashcroft*  
SECRETARY OF STATE