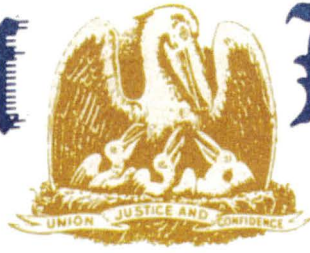


# State of Louisiana



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-040**

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***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – MARTHA ELIZABETH ODOM***

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**WHEREAS**, Martha Elizabeth Odom tragically lost her life in an act of senseless violence on April 23, 2026, in Baton Rouge, LA;

**WHEREAS**, the people of Louisiana mourn alongside the loved ones of Martha;

**WHEREAS**, this tragedy reminds us of the importance of unity, resilience, and compassion in the face of unspeakable evil and hatred;

**WHEREAS**, such acts of violence and depravity erode the principles of peace and safety that bind our communities, and it is incumbent upon us to honor the memory of those lost by standing together against such evil;

**WHEREAS**, the people of Louisiana must stand united against acts of violence directed at our children, who are entitled to our fullest protection and support;

**WHEREAS**, we are called upon to support one another during times of need, especially those affected by this tragedy;

**WHEREAS**, Martha was born to Michael Odom and Brooke Bingham Odom on May 23, 2008;

**WHEREAS**, she was a student at Ascension Episcopal School, Class of 2026;

**WHEREAS**, an accomplished ballet dancer, having completed 12 years of classical ballet training and 10 performances in the Lafayette Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker;

**WHEREAS**, she was a multifaceted and multitalented student, participating in five school musicals and three plays and earning recognition in the Writes of Spring Regional Writing Contest through multiple short fiction awards three years in a row. She also played junior varsity and varsity softball, earning a freshman all-district honorable mention award; competed in four years

of varsity soccer, where she was voted the happiest team player and named team captain her senior year; and she joined the varsity tennis team in her senior year;

**WHEREAS**, she was active in numerous student organizations, including Creative Writing Club, Robotics Club, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, and Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society;

**WHEREAS**, she distinguished herself as a leader, having been selected for Louisiana Girls' State in 2025 and having served as Editor-in-Chief of her high school newspaper, The Authored Ascension, as an Ascension Ambassador, and as Communications Officer for Rho Kappa National Honor Society;

**WHEREAS**, outside of all these activities, Martha enjoyed reading and playing board and card games with her friends;

**WHEREAS**, she was embarking on a promising path, having been accepted into the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, as a member of the Class of 2030, where she planned to major in English & Creative Writing and Rhetoric, and minor in Dance;

**WHEREAS**, she is survived by her parents, Michael and Brooke Bingham Odom; her sister, Margaret Odom; maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Joan Bingham of New Iberia; godmother, Allison Clarke of Crowley; and her uncles and aunts: Brent and Gina Bingham of Ocean Springs, Mississippi; Suzanne Odom of Lafayette; Cade and Dave Cheshire of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Catherine and Tom Pankey, of Mountain Brook, Alabama; and all her cousins;

**WHEREAS**, she was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Dr. James C. and Martha Tolley Davis Odom, and her uncle, James Calhoun "Cal" Odom, Jr.;

**WHEREAS**, she will be remembered as a kind, compassionate, and intelligent young woman of many talents, distinguished by her wit, wisdom, and sly sense of humor;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: As an expression of respect and to honor Martha Elizabeth Odom, 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 until sunset on May 8, 2026.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset,  
May 8, 2026.



**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 7<sup>th</sup> day  
of May 2026.

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**Jeff Landry**  
**GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE**

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**Nancy Landry**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**