



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-082

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
J. STANLEY “SKIP” BERTMAN***

WHEREAS, J. Stanley “Skip” Bertman, the legendary Louisiana State University baseball coach and athletics director, passed away on August 14, 2026, in Baton Rouge, at the age of eighty-eight;

WHEREAS, he was born on May 23, 1938, in Detroit, Michigan, and was raised in Miami Beach, Florida;

WHEREAS, he devoted his life to the young men he coached and to the institution and the state he served, and his life reflects the extraordinary measure of what one person may give to a community;

WHEREAS, he arrived in Baton Rouge in the summer of 1983 with a vision to build an elite college baseball program;

WHEREAS, he served as head baseball coach at Louisiana State University for eighteen seasons, from 1984 through 2001, compiling a record of 870 wins, 330 losses, and 3 ties, for a winning percentage of .724, the highest in the history of the Southeastern Conference;

WHEREAS, he led the Tigers to five National Championships, in 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, and 2000, and he is one of only three coaches in the history of NCAA Division I baseball to win five College World Series titles;

WHEREAS, he led the Tigers to eleven College World Series appearances, sixteen NCAA Tournament berths, seven Southeastern Conference championships, six Southeastern Conference Tournament titles, and nine fifty-win seasons;

WHEREAS, he was voted National Coach of the Year six times, in 1986, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, and 2000, and Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year seven times, and since 2013 the national coach of the year award of the College Baseball Foundation has borne his name;

WHEREAS, he served his country as pitching coach of the 1988 United States Olympic team, which won the gold medal in Seoul, and as head coach of the 1996 United States Olympic team, which won the bronze medal in Atlanta;

WHEREAS, he served as Director of Athletics at Louisiana State University from 2001 through 2008, presiding over one of the greatest periods of facility growth and athletic achievement in the history of the institution, including football national championships in 2003 and 2007;

WHEREAS, he made “Baseball at the Box” a gathering place for the people of this state, filling Alex Box Stadium season after season and demonstrating to the nation that college baseball could command the devotion of an entire community;

WHEREAS, upon his retirement as head baseball coach in 2001, his jersey number 15 was retired, the street in front of the original Alex Box Stadium was renamed Skip Bertman Drive, and in 2013 the playing surface at the new Alex Box Stadium was named Skip Bertman Field;

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003, the College Baseball Hall of Fame as a member of its inaugural class in 2006, and the Louisiana State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011;

WHEREAS, he continued to serve the Baton Rouge community through such organizations as the United Way, Cancer Services, and the Alzheimer’s Association;

WHEREAS, the purple and gold he wore for a quarter century became, in his hands, a symbol of excellence recognized across the nation, and the people of this state will forever associate those colors with the standard he set;

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-three years, Sandy Bertman, who passed away in March 2025, and by his daughter, Dr. Lisa Jo Pate;

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughters, Jan, Jodi, and Lori; and his grandchildren, Sophie, Isaac, Sam, and Ezra.

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 J. Stanley “Skip” Bertman, 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 on August 24 until sunset on August 25, 2026.

Section 2: All citizens of Louisiana are urged to wear purple and gold in honor of J. Stanley “Skip” Bertman during this period of mourning.

Section 3: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, August 25, 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 21st day of August, 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 21st day of August 2026.

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE