



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-083**

FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF – DOLLY PARTON

WHEREAS, Dolly Rebecca Parton, a global icon, singer, songwriter, actress, author, and philanthropist, passed away in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 25, 2026, at the age of eighty;

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton, widely celebrated as the “Queen of Country,” was one of the most honored artists in American music history, earning ten Grammy Awards and the Recording Academy’s Lifetime Achievement Award, an Emmy Award, and twenty-six number-one songs on Billboard’s country charts;

WHEREAS, Louisiana held a special place in her story, for at age thirteen she recorded her first single, “Puppy Love,” for Goldband Records in Lake Charles;

WHEREAS, she later brought Louisiana’s warmth, humor, and resilience to the screen through her portrayal of Truvy Jones in *Steel Magnolias*, filmed in Natchitoches, and returned to Natchitoches for the film’s Louisiana premiere;

WHEREAS, the filming of *Steel Magnolias* provided a major economic boost to Natchitoches during a period of economic hardship, and the film’s enduring popularity continues to attract visitors and support the city’s tourism industry;

WHEREAS, during her time in Natchitoches, Dolly Parton became a cherished part of the community, and residents continue to share treasured remembrances of her lasting impact upon the city and its people including when she joined the Northwestern Marching Band during a football halftime performance and sang her Grammy Award-winning song “9 to 5,” creating an unforgettable memory for the students of Northwestern;

WHEREAS, in 1995, inspired by her father’s inability to read and write, she founded Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to mail free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five, regardless of family income;

WHEREAS, through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, more than 3.5 million free books have been delivered to children since 2008;

WHEREAS, in 2023, Act No. 181 established the Imagination Library of Louisiana under the Louisiana Educational Television Authority to foster a statewide love of reading and learning among children from birth to age five;

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Imagination Library of Louisiana added seventeen parishes and ten local program partners, served 62,075 Louisiana children, and mailed 419,000 books while continuing to work toward coverage in all sixty-four parishes;

WHEREAS, Louisiana will always love Dolly Parton, and her gifts of song, story, kindness, and service will continue to brighten the lives of our children for generations to come.

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 Dolly Parton, 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 Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Section 2: All citizens of Louisiana are encouraged to reflect upon Dolly Parton’s extraordinary life and her lasting contributions to music, literacy, and the children of this State.

Section 3: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset on Thursday, August 27, 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 26th day of August 2026.


Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**


Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE