



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-098

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
ROBERT LEE “BOB” PETTIT, JR.***

WHEREAS, Robert Lee “Bob” Pettit, Jr., the original superstar of Louisiana State University (“LSU”) basketball and one of the greatest players in the history of the National Basketball Association (“NBA”), passed away on September 23, 2026, at the age of ninety-three;

WHEREAS, he was born on December 12, 1932, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Robert Lee Pettit, Sr. and Margaret Brandon Pettit;

WHEREAS, he attended Dufrocq Elementary School and Baton Rouge High School;

WHEREAS, he was cut from the varsity basketball team as a sophomore at Baton Rouge High School, yet through persistence and hard work he became a starter as a junior;

WHEREAS, as a senior, he led Baton Rouge High School to its first state basketball championship in more than twenty years, an achievement he often counted among his proudest;

WHEREAS, he had scholarship offers from 14 universities and accepted a scholarship to play basketball at LSU;

WHEREAS, while at LSU, he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration;

WHEREAS, he led the Tigers to back-to-back Southeastern Conference championships in 1953 and 1954 and to the program’s first NCAA Final Four in 1953;

WHEREAS, he led the Southeastern Conference in scoring in all three of his varsity seasons, setting then-conference records of 25.5 points per game in 1952, 24.9 in 1953, and 31.4 in 1954, and he averaged an LSU-record 17.3 rebounds per game in 1954;

WHEREAS, he was named a three-time first-team All-Southeastern Conference selection and a two-time All-American as a member of the LSU's men's basketball team;

WHEREAS, in 1954, his No. 50 jersey became the first jersey in any sport to be retired by LSU, and his legacy on campus is further honored by Bob Pettit Boulevard and by a statue unveiled on the basketball plaza of the Pete Maravich Assembly Center in February 2016;

WHEREAS, he was selected by the Milwaukee Hawks with the second pick of the 1954 NBA Draft, was named NBA Rookie of the Year in 1955, and remained with the franchise for his entire eleven-season career, moving with the team to St. Louis in 1955;

WHEREAS, he received the first Most Valuable Player ("MVP") award ever presented by the NBA in 1956 and won the award again in 1959. He was named an NBA All-Star in each of his eleven seasons, and was a four-time NBA All-Star Game MVP;

WHEREAS, he led the Hawks to five NBA Finals appearances and to the 1958 NBA Championship over the Boston Celtics, scoring 50 points in the series-clinching sixth game;

WHEREAS, in 1964, he became the first player in NBA history to surpass 20,000 career points, and he retired in 1965 as the leading scorer in the history of the league;

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1973, and the College Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of its inaugural class in 2006;

WHEREAS, he was one of only four players named to each of the NBA's 25th, 35th, 50th, and 75th anniversary teams;

WHEREAS, after retiring from basketball, he enjoyed a successful career as a banker and financial consultant in New Orleans;

WHEREAS, he remained active in the civic and social lives of both New Orleans and Baton Rouge, as he participated in several carnival organizations and was a member of the New Orleans Country Club and Baton Rouge Assembly;

WHEREAS, despite all of his accomplishments, he was a modest and humble man with a gentle soul who treasured his family and friends above all else, and he carried the name of Baton Rouge and of LSU with distinction throughout his life;

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife of forty-six years, Carole Crowell Pettit; his parents, Robert Lee Pettit, Sr. and Margaret Brandon Pettit; and his stepson, Bill Slatten; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Alma Slatten Pettit; his children, Peyton Pettit Coates (Jonathon) of Tibbie, Alabama; Robert Lee Pettit III (Conway) of Baton Rouge; and Mary Pettit Mozingo (Michael) of Baton Rouge; his ten grandchildren, Bobby Pettit, Crossland Pettit, Lucy Jane Pettit, Charlie Pettit, Leven Greene, Lydia Greene, L.R. Greene, Deacon Mozingo, Camille Mozingo, and Mason Mozingo; his stepchildren, Scott Slatten (Becky) and Elizabeth Healy (Dunbar); and his nine step-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.

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 Robert Lee “Bob” Pettit, Jr., 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 Saturday, October 3, 2026.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset on Saturday, October 3, 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 2nd day of October, 2026.



Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE