



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-037**

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
SERGEANT GRANT JAMES CANDIES***

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2025, Sergeant Grant James Candies tragically lost his life while bravely serving in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, he was born on February 29, 1988, in Luling, Louisiana, the son of Bettye Freeman and retired Captain Mark Candies of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office;

WHEREAS, he dedicated his entire life to serving his community, and his life reflects the heroic and remarkable service he offered to others;

WHEREAS, he nobly served our nation in the United States Marine Corps, serving as Sergeant of the MALS-11 unit from 2006 to 2013 and also served as a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor and avionics technician;

WHEREAS, in 2016, he brought his leadership and resilience skills to the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, where he rose to the role of Field Training Officer in the Criminal Patrol Division;

WHEREAS, his exemplary leadership and service were evident to all who knew him and were reflected in his numerous commendations and awards, including the 2023 Medal of Lifesaving Award (2x), 2023 STPSO Deputy of the Year, the 2023 Oscar J. Thomas Charitable Trust Award, the 2024 Northlake Mandeville Rotary Club Public Service Award, 2024 VFW Police Officer of the Year, and the 2024 Elks Care Medal of Service;

WHEREAS, while training new deputies, he was able to instill in them the values of integrity, courage, and unshakable commitment to service;

WHEREAS, he truly exemplified outstanding law enforcement as a disciplined, compassionate, and selfless law enforcement officer;

WHEREAS, he lived his life by the Marine Corps principle "leading from the front";

WHEREAS, he also served our country by interning in the United States Marshals Service;

WHEREAS, he attended Southeastern Louisiana University, where he met the love of his life, Courtney, and together they made St. Tammany Parish their home;

WHEREAS, he was known as a protective, fun, and deeply loving family man beyond the badge, and he and Courtney had two beloved children, Brenna and Bryson, and he raised them with the values he reflected: strength, kindness, and unwavering dedication;

WHEREAS, Sergeant Candies' life exemplified the courage and commitment of those who stand on the Thin Blue Line, a symbol of the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. Sergeant Candies, like so many others, faced the dangers and challenges of law enforcement with unwavering resolve, embodying the ideals of justice and service. As we remember Sgt. Candies, we honor not only their ultimate sacrifice but also the profound impact of his brothers and sisters in uniform who stood resolutely on that Thin Blue Line, preserving the safety and peace of our communities;

WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his purpose, leadership, and unyielding service and his laughter, wisdom, and selfless spirit will live on in all those who knew him;

WHEREAS, in addition to being an exemplary law enforcement officer, he was a husband, a father, a Marine, a mentor, and a leader who truly demonstrated selfless service to others;

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife, Courtney, and their cherished children, Brenna and Bryson; his mother Bettye Freeman (Carl Sr.) and father Mark Candies (Lori); sisters Lauren (Cole) Matherne, Lauren Ashley (Brandon) Borey, and Lacie Duplessis; brother Carl Jr. (Jordin) Freeman; niece Emma; nephew Brooks; father-in-law Kenneth Singletary; grandmother Emma Lou Freeman; grandmother-in-law Brenda Whitehead; a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins; and his Sheriff's Office family and Marine Corps brothers; and he is preceded in death by his mother-in-law Bessie Singletary; grandmothers Virginia Candies and Kista Elliot; grandfathers Benjamin Candies and Billy Joe Elliot; and grandfather-in-law Floyd Whitehead;

WHEREAS, Sergeant Grant James Candies is a true hero, whose service and sacrifice will forever inspire the people of our state as his legacy continues.

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 Sergeant Grant Candies, 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 April 1, 2025.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, April 1, 2025.



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 31st of March 2025.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE