

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-089

***FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF –
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE JOE REECE SALTER***

WHEREAS, former Louisiana legislator and former Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Joe Reece Salter, passed away on August 16, 2025;

WHEREAS, his contributions to the state extended beyond the legislature to his deep commitment to education and community service;

WHEREAS, he was born on August 13, 1943, in Many, Louisiana, and grew up in Redland;

WHEREAS, he was married to Bettye Salter for 60 years, and they had two children, Brantley and Mandy, as well as four grandchildren, Hannah, Haylee, Tyler, and Riley, and two great grandchildren, Kendall and Axel;

WHEREAS, he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church in Florien;

WHEREAS, he graduated from Northwestern State University, where he was a member of the Blue Key Society and Phi Kappa Phi;

WHEREAS, he served as an educator in Sabine Parish and Vernon Parish. He became principal at Florien High School for 11 years, then assistant superintendent of the Sabine Parish School System for 17 years;

WHEREAS, he served as President of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association for four consecutive terms;

WHEREAS, he served in the Legislature with honor and distinction from 1986 until 2008;

WHEREAS, while in the Legislature, he served as Chairman of the House Legislative Bureau and Rural Legislative Task Force, member of the Special Committee on Louisiana Homeland Security, member of the House Education Committee, and member of numerous other committees. In 2003, he was elected as Speaker of the House, and served as leader of the Louisiana

House of Representatives, signifying a broad influence over the legislative branch and the direction of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, as a legislator, he received numerous awards, including being named a three-time recipient of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, Legislative Golden Apple Award; being named multiple times to the Louisiana Association of Educators Legislative Honor Roll; and receiving recognition from a wide-ranging group of organizations, including but not limited to the Council on Aging, Fleur de Lis Health Care, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, and the Louisiana Association of School Executives;

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Northwestern State University's Long Purple Line, Hall of Distinguished Educators at Northwestern State University, Sabine Parish Hall of Fame, and the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame;

WHEREAS, after leaving the Legislature, he continued to serve our state by working with the State Department of Education as Director of Government Affairs, and he later became the Chief of Staff for the Louisiana Secretary of State;

WHEREAS, he also served for many years as a board member of the University of Louisiana System;

WHEREAS, upon leaving employment with the State of Louisiana, he had 59 years of public service to our state and its people;

WHEREAS, he was known for his easy-going personality, being friendly, professional, and even-keeled to all who knew him;

WHEREAS, his ability to connect with individuals from all walks of life was a testament to his unwavering compassion and professionalism, qualities that endeared him to colleagues, constituents, and students alike;

WHEREAS, he touched countless lives with his perseverance, wisdom, and kindness, and he leaves behind a legacy of service and dedication to all who knew him;

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Bettye Lilly; two children, Amanda Marye Gibbs (Billy) of Florien and Brantley Reece Salter (Tammy) of Baton Rouge; four grandchildren: Hannah Gibbs Fontenot (Gage), Haylee Salter, Tyler Gibbs and Riley Salter and two great grandchildren: Kendall Fontenot and Axel Fontenot. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lamar Salter, and parents J. D. and Loucille Salter;

WHEREAS, Louisiana owes a debt of gratitude to his many outstanding contributions to our state.


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 former speaker Joe Salter, 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 August 22, 2025, and on August 24, 2025.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, August 24, 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 21st day of August 2025.



Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**



Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE