



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-106

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***HURRICANE RITA DAY OF REMEMBRANCE,  
DAY OF PRAYER, AND FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF***

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**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, September 24, 2005, at 2:40 a.m., Hurricane Rita made landfall between Sabine Pass, Texas and Holly Beach in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, devastating Southwest Louisiana and causing damage throughout the State;

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Rita was the first major storm to hit that area of Louisiana in nearly 50 years;

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Rita is often referred to as “the forgotten storm,” as Hurricane Katrina made landfall three weeks earlier, garnering most of the national media coverage and overshadowing the losses sustained by so many in Southwest Louisiana;

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Rita was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf of America, registering at a Category 5 with winds reaching 180 mph before slightly weakening to a Category 3 with 120 mph winds at landfall;

**WHEREAS**, storm force winds and storm surge inundated low-lying areas across Southwest, Louisiana, before the storm moved inland;

**WHEREAS**, communities in Cameron Parish, including but not limited to Holly Beach, Hackberry, Creole, and Grand Chenier were essentially washed away;

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Rita changed the landscape across Cameron, Calcasieu, Vermilion, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Beauregard and surrounding parishes, causing widespread damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, the people of Southwest Louisiana endured extraordinary suffering, yet displayed unmatched courage, resilience, and compassion in the face of overwhelming adversity;

**WHEREAS**, communities across Southwest Louisiana had the will to recover and have worked tirelessly over the past two decades to rebuild lives, restore neighborhoods, and sustain the spirit of Louisiana;

**WHEREAS**, the twentieth anniversary of Hurricane Rita is a solemn opportunity to remember the lives forever changed, honor those who worked tirelessly to rebuild, and pay tribute to the resilience and spirit of these communities;

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that the State of Louisiana observe this significant anniversary with reflection and remembrance.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, I do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: September 24, 2025, is proclaimed as Hurricane Rita Remembrance Day in the State of Louisiana.

Section 2: To honor and remember the victims of this tragic event, and the sacrifices of so many across the state and our country, 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 to sunset on September 24, 2025.

Section 3: All political subdivisions, private entities, and educational institutions, including public, private, parochial, and post-secondary institutions, are encouraged to lower the flags of the United States and the State of Louisiana to half-staff during this period.

Section 4: Throughout our history, Louisianians have been strengthened, assured, and lifted up through prayer; therefore, Louisianians of all faiths and religious traditions and backgrounds are encouraged to join me and Sharon in a day of prayer in observance of Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2025.

Section 5: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, on September 24, 2025, or until amended.



**ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

*Nancy Landry*  
Nancy Landry  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2025.

*Jeff Landry*

**Jeff Landry  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**