



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**FLAGS ORDERED LOWERED TO HALF-STAFF AND AUTHORIZING  
SPEAKER DAVID RALSTON TO LIE IN STATE IN THE GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL**

- WHEREAS:** On Wednesday, November 16, 2022, David Ralston, the second longest serving Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives in state history and the longest currently serving state house speaker in the nation, passed away; and
- WHEREAS:** As a native of Gilmer County, he was proud to serve his community as the first state house speaker from North Georgia in more than 150 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Speaker David Ralston devoted his life to serving the people of Georgia, always putting the interests of the state first through his years in both the Georgia State Senate and Georgia House of Representatives; and
- WHEREAS:** As speaker, David Ralston championed measures that promoted economic opportunity for all Georgians, as well as bipartisan legislation such as adoption reform and, during his final session leading the House, the groundbreaking Mental Health Parity Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Throughout his many years as a statewide leader, Speaker Ralston remained committed to his hometown of Blue Ridge and his family, including his wife, Sheree, and two children, Elizabeth and Matt; and
- WHEREAS:** As we mourn his death, we will also honor the monumental legacy he leaves by striving to always put service above self and bring honor and decency into our public lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN HONOR OF AND AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE MEMORY OF SPEAKER DAVID RALSTON, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That the flag of the United States of America and the flag of the State of Georgia shall be flown at half-staff on all state buildings and grounds from the date of this order through sunset on the day of his interment.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That Speaker David Ralston shall lie in state in the Rotunda of the Georgia State Capitol.

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022.



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GOVERNOR