



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**FLAGS ON STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AND IN PIERCE COUNTY  
ORDERED LOWERED TO HALF-STAFF**

**WHEREAS:** Private Bennett Hubert Waters, U.S. Army, of Blackshear, Georgia, honorably served our country in the United States Army Air Forces in the 17<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 27<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group during World War II; and

**WHEREAS:** Private Waters was captured by the Japanese military on April 9, 1942, and died during captivity on January 9, 1945; and

**WHEREAS:** Over 80 years later, the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense identified Private Waters' remains, which were returned to Blackshear, Georgia, on March 28, 2026; and

**WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper to recognize the sacrifices made by Private Waters by lowering the flags on the State Capitol building and in Pierce County to half-staff.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN HONOR OF AND AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE MEMORY OF PRIVATE BENNETT HUBERT WATERS, 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 and the flag of the State of Georgia be flown at half-staff on the State Capitol building and in Pierce County on Saturday, April 4, 2026, the day of Private Waters' internment.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2026.

  
GOVERNOR