



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois and its people collectively mourn the loss of former Governor James. R. Thompson, who passed away Friday evening, August 14, 2020, at the age of 84; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was a titan of Illinois' state government and the longest serving governor in the history of the state, holding the office for 14 years, from 1977 through 1991; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was the son of James Robert Thompson, a physician, and Agnes Josephine of Chicago, he married the love of his life, Jayne (Carr), in June 1976, and was blessed with his beloved daughter, Samantha, who later gave him his greatest gift – a granddaughter; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson graduated from North Park Academy, studied at the University of Illinois at Chicago Navy Pier campus and Washington University in St. Louis and received his J.D. from Northwestern University in 1959; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson – known to his friends, supporters and colleagues as “Big Jim” – was first elected as governor in 1976 after leaving his position as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and was elected to successive terms in 1978, 1982 and 1986; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was known for his ability to work with legislators from both sides of the aisle for the benefit of Illinois and its people and was known to treat people with kindness and decency; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was known to love the Illinois State Fair; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson modernized state government, brought professionalism to state agencies, respected state workers and their families, and is credited with changing forever the face of state government for the better; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson oversaw the Build Illinois capital improvement program, making countless improvements to infrastructure and public facilities throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was instrumental in securing bipartisan support for a new stadium for the Chicago White Sox, resulting in keeping the team in Illinois and benefitting both fans and the businesses located in the surrounding community; and,

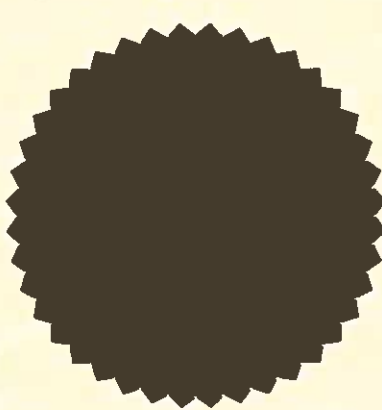
WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson was dedicated to the preservation of Illinois' cultural and natural resources, creating the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and spearheading the acquisition of gems such as the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Dana-Thomas House in Springfield; and,

WHEREAS, after leaving office, Gov. Thompson returned to the field of law and served as chairman of Winston & Strawn law firm, and served on the 911 Commission; he was inducted as a laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois and awarded the state's highest honor, the Order of Lincoln in the area of Government; and,

WHEREAS, Gov. Thompson set a standard for all persons in public service to emulate, and we honor his memory by embracing his compassion, his generosity, and his dedication to service;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby order all persons or entities governed by the Illinois Flag Display Act to join the ongoing COVID-19 disaster proclamation requiring all flags be flown at half-staff, in honor and remembrance of Gov. James R. Thompson and declare August 19, 2020 a statewide day of mourning and urge all Illinoisans to reflect upon the many contributions of Gov. Thompson and to keep his family in their prayers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this _____ *NINETEENTH* *day of* _____ *AUGUST* _____, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_____ *TWENTY* _____, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and _____ *SECOND* _____.

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR