State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-105

FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF
KAITLYN "KK" MICHELLE GALLAGHER

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2026, United States Forest Service Wildland Firefighter Kaitlyn "KK" Michelle Gallagher tragically lost her life in the line of duty while responding to the Broken Creek Fire on the Kisatchie National Forest in Rapides Parish, at the age of twenty-four;

WHEREAS, she was born on April 26, 2002, in Alexandria, Louisiana, to Michael and Debbie Gallagher;

WHEREAS, she was a graduate of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Elementary School and Holy Savior Menard Catholic High School, where she played for the Lady Eagles basketball and softball teams and served as a member of the Menard Apostles for Christ Ministry team;

WHEREAS, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology Health and Fitness Studies from Louisiana State University at Alexandria in December 2023, where she played for the LSUA women's basketball team;

WHEREAS, during her studies, she was an active member of the Kinesiology Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Catholic Student Organization, and she further distinguished herself in service to the university as an intern with the Offices of Student Life, Division of Student Engagement, and Athletics;

WHEREAS, she joined the United States Forest Service as a Wildland Firefighter Apprentice in 2025 and spent two summers on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, serving on both engine and wildland fire modules;

WHEREAS, while serving on the Kisatchie National Forest, she assisted with prescribed burns and responded to wildfires, protecting the forests, lands, and communities of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, her joy for life, heart for service, and love of the outdoors made her a valued member of the United States Forest Service and the wildland fire community;

WHEREAS, her passion was sharing her faith in Jesus, which she lived out while helping shape young lives as a Youth Leader at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church and as the Girls Basketball and Softball Coach at Holy Savior Menard Catholic High School;

WHEREAS, she was a pure embodiment of love and light and a fearless disciple of Christ who loved deeply and touched many lives;

WHEREAS, her life exemplified the courage and selflessness of the wildland firefighters who place themselves in harm's way to protect lives, property, and natural resources;

WHEREAS, she will be remembered as a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, friend, and mentor to countless people, and as a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice;

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Jim and Linda Tryniecki, and her paternal grandfather, Fred Fair;

WHEREAS, she is survived by her devoted parents, Michael and Debbie Gallagher; her sister, Maddie; her brother, Shawn; her paternal grandmother, Betty McClain Fair; her paternal grandfather, Ed Gallagher (June); along with numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is indebted to her for her service and sacrifice.

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 Kaitlyn "KK" Michelle Gallagher, 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 Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Section 2: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until sunset, on October 27, 2026.

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 26th day of October, 2026.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE