

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Reading is the catalyst for our children’s future academic success, their preparation for the workforce, and their overall ability to thrive amidst a changing global landscape; and

WHEREAS: The journey to literacy begins early on and continues throughout childhood, and books are critical to reinforcing reading proficiency and building critical thinking skills. Although reading comprehension is taught and practiced in schools, it is important that students are able to further develop their skills at home; and

WHEREAS: Dolly Parton, renowned singer-songwriter, actress, and businesswoman, established the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in 1995 in an effort to inspire a love of reading in all children, regardless of socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS: The program gifts books free of charge to children up to the age of five in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland, providing countless individuals the opportunity to establish their reading skills and learn more about the world around them; and

WHEREAS: The Dolly Parton Imagination Library currently has more than two million registered children and has gifted over 180,000,000 books around the world. Funded through local community partners and Parton herself, the Imagination Library has had a significant impact on increasing literacy in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Imagination Library ensures that all young children in the state are able to participate in Parton’s program, thereby increasing literacy rates and fostering an appreciation for learning among families of all backgrounds;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2022, as

DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY DAY

across the state, and I urge all citizens to observe this occasion by acknowledging the importance of literacy and encouraging eligible families to participate in this free program.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State