

Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** rural communities in Louisiana and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work – they are places where people respect each other, and work together to benefit the community; and
- WHEREAS,** rural America is the economic engine that helped the United States become the world leader it is today; and
- WHEREAS,** rural citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and
- WHEREAS,** meeting the unique healthcare needs of those citizens is constantly evolving, as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where only 20 percent of the nation’s population lives but where the majority of trauma deaths occur; and
- WHEREAS,** rural hospitals – in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care – are also typically the economic foundation of their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Rural Health Association, Well Ahead Louisiana, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens of our rural citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2022 as

RURAL HEALTH DAY
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 17th day of November A. D., 2022.



Handwritten signature of John Bel Edwards in black ink.

John Bel Edwards
Governor