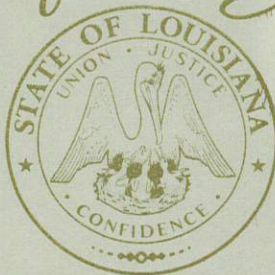


# Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** rural communities in Louisiana and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live, work and volunteer; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 61 million people (19.7 percent of the population) and 86 percent of the country's land area are rural; and
- WHEREAS,** the health and well-being of our citizens are of utmost importance to our great state; and
- WHEREAS,** rural communities often face accessibility issues, healthcare provider shortages, transportation barriers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** rural communities are resilient, resourceful, innovative, and collaborative, addressing local challenges with creative solutions; and
- WHEREAS,** rural America is a great place for dedicated health professionals to deliver essential health services and provide comprehensive, individualized care; and
- WHEREAS,** National Rural Health Day, founded by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November, serves as a reminder of the unique needs and opportunities of rural communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Rural Health Association and Louisiana State Office of Rural Health play a critical role in leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural Louisiana citizens.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2023 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 **16th** day of **November** A. D., **2023**.

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

