

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
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GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

TO: President Randall Dueitt, Mobile County Commission; Mayor Sandy Stimpson,
City of Mobile

FROM: Governor Kay Ivey *Kay Ivey*

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

RE: Flags Lowered for Former State Representative, Major General Jerome Gary
Cooper, USMC (Retired)

I hereby authorize flags be flown at half-staff on Thursday, May 2, 2024, on the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol Complex in Montgomery and in Mobile County to honor the life and service of former State Representative, Major General Jerome Gary Cooper, USMC (Retired), who passed away on April 27, 2024, at the age of 87.

A Mobile native, Major General Jerome Gary Cooper (Retired) devoted his life to public service, including honorably defending his country from within the highest ranks of the U.S. Marine Corps, and by representing his state and nation in legislative and senior appointed levels of government. A Notre Dame graduate, MG Cooper began his distinguished military career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the USMC, earning many decorations for heroism during the Vietnam War, including the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and three times the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He became the first black officer to lead a Marine Corps infantry company into combat. He became a Marine reservist in 1970. He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives beginning in 1974, and in 1978, after being reelected, resigned his seat to accept an appointment to the Cabinet position of Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources. In 1988, he was promoted to the rank of Major General in the USMC. In 1989, MG Cooper was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and the Environment. He would later hold senior positions in Alabama banking and engineering firms and was appointed in 1994 as U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica.

The flags on the grounds of the State Capitol Complex and in Mobile County may be flown at half-staff on May 2, 2024, from sunrise until sunset in his honor.

KI/ml