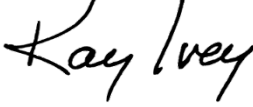




KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

(334) 242-7100

STATE OF ALABAMA

TO: Alabama State Agencies
FROM: Governor Kay Ivey 
DATE: Thursday, August 27, 2026
RE: Flags Lowered Honoring American Patriot Roy Henry Drinkard

I hereby authorize flags be flown at half-staff on Friday, August 28, 2026, on the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol Complex in Montgomery and statewide to honor the life of American patriot and entrepreneur Roy Henry Drinkard of Alabama who passed away at the age of 106 on August 23, 2026.

Roy Drinkard was born in 1920 in Falkville in Morgan County where his father was both a businessman and mayor. One of six children, Roy quickly adopted the mindset of an entrepreneur, delivering newspapers at age nine. After graduating from St. Bernard High School and Gupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science, he joined the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to the Pacific Theater during World War II. After serving his country, he returned home to Alabama to serve his state as a champion for economic development and jobs in Cullman and north Alabama. First as the founder of Drinkard Chevrolet and then Drinkard Development, LLC, giving rise to shopping centers in five states, he was nationally recognized as the number one developer in the nation for Kmart and Kroger in 1981 and 1982. He was also honored by Vice President Hubert Humphrey as Alabama Small Businessman of the Year in 1967. Among his many roles, Roy Drinkard was chair of the Cullman Industrial Development Board, Director of George C. Wallace Community College and Chairman of the Wallace State Foundation as well as a Trustee of Troy University for 25 years under three governors. He has been described as a statesman, a builder, a mentor and a patriot. Roy Drinkard was also America's oldest living U.S. Marine. All of Alabama is proud to honor the memory of this great Alabamian and great American, and we join his family and many friends in mourning his passing.

I, therefore, authorize flags on the grounds of the State Capitol Complex in Montgomery and statewide be flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset on the day of Roy Henry Drinkard's interment, Friday, August 28, 2026.

KI/ml