

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 239**

WHEREAS, Brendan Thomas Byrne dedicated his life to serving the people of New Jersey, most recognizably through his two terms as Governor, and the citizens of this State shall be forever grateful for his steadfast governance and the enduring contributions he made to our State; and

WHEREAS, Governor Byrne was born in 1924 in West Orange, and graduated from West Orange High School in 1942, where he was president of his senior class and president of the debate club, exhibiting his passion for leadership and service even at a young age; and

WHEREAS, Governor Byrne postponed his college education to courageously serve his country in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, earning several medals for his bravery and distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps as a Lieutenant, Governor Byrne graduated from Princeton University in 1949, and thereafter received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Governor Byrne began his illustrious career in New Jersey public service in 1955, when he was appointed Assistant Counsel to Governor Robert B. Meyner; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Governor Byrne was appointed Deputy Attorney General for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and in the following year, he was appointed Essex County Prosecutor, a position he held for two five-year terms; and

WHEREAS, in further recognition of his diverse talents, Governor Byrne was appointed President of the Board of Public Utilities in 1968; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Governor Byrne was appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor William T. Cahill, where he served as Assignment Judge until he began his run for Governor in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Governor Byrne won the 1973 gubernatorial race by a wide margin, and during his first term, he made sweeping changes to state government, including establishing governmental spending limits; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Governor Byrne was reelected by the people of New Jersey, and during his second term, he worked to develop large-scale tourism and entertainment projects in the State, including the Meadowlands Sports Complex and the establishment of casinos in Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, also during his second term, Governor Byrne signed the Pinelands Preservation Act into law, preserving this pristine area of the State for future generations, and where a State Forest has been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, while Governor Byrne shall be remembered for his many lasting achievements and contributions to the State, his universally recognized strong moral and ethical code will continue to serve as a shining example for all those who pursue a career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Governor Byrne was a devoted husband to his wife of 24 years, Ruth, and a loving father and grandfather, and his presence will be sorely missed by his family, his many friends, colleagues, and admirers, and by the people of New Jersey overall; and

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow and deep sadness that we mourn the loss of Governor Byrne, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor and to mark the passing of Governor Byrne, an extraordinary public servant and a man of unimpeachable character, whose memory will live on for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Monday, January 8, 2018, in recognition and mourning of the passing of Governor Brendan T. Byrne.
2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
5<sup>th</sup> day of January,  
[seal] Two Thousand and Eighteen,  
and of the Independence of  
the United States, the Two  
Hundred and Forty-Second.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Andrew J. McNally

Senior Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor