

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 258

WHEREAS, Keith Pinto was a resident of Toms River and a 2020 graduate of Toms River High School North; and

WHEREAS, Keith was a valued member of the Berkeley Township Beach Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Keith devoted his summer to service as a lifeguard, helping ensure the safety of those enjoying White Sands Beach in South Seaside Park; and

WHEREAS, Keith was well known for his kindness, cheerful disposition, and loyalty to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2021, Keith was 19 years old and about to resume classes at Ocean County College; and

WHEREAS, Keith was on duty guarding the waters of Twenty-First Avenue Beach when an unexpected cluster of thunderstorms quickly descended on the coastline; and

WHEREAS, Keith was struck by lightning and tragically died from his injuries, while seven other individuals sustained serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Keith was a beloved son, twin brother, nephew, and cousin, whose joyful and uplifting presence will be forever missed by his family, his friends, his fellow members of the Berkeley Heights Beach Patrol, his Toms River community, and by the people of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness that we mourn Keith's sudden passing and extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and fellow lifeguards; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the cherished memory of Keith and to mark his passing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, 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 Friday, September 3, 2021, in recognition and mourning of Keith Pinto.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
1st day of September,
Two Thousand and Twenty-one,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Sixth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor