

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 261**

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, unprecedented terrorist attacks were committed in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, these horrific attacks caused the largest loss of life from a foreign attack on American soil, and the largest single loss of rescue personnel in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, approximately one quarter of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks were New Jerseyans, with nearly 700 residents of our State killed in the attacks; and

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks on our nation not only caused an immense loss of life, but also inflicted immeasurable agony and anguish on those who lived through the events, which include hundreds of New Jersey families whose lives have been forever altered by the loss of a parent, spouse, child, or other loved one; and

WHEREAS, following these appalling attacks, people of all backgrounds stood together, united not only in our grief, but in our resolve to persevere; and

WHEREAS, many New Jerseyans, including thousands of police, fire, military, emergency, and construction personnel responded to this tragedy, and many first responders continue to deal with chronic health effects decades later; and

WHEREAS, as we reach the twentieth anniversary of this tragic event, it will be remembered by all New Jerseyans both in private and public remembrances and memorial ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, it is also appropriate to remember all those who have served in the U.S. military and intelligence agencies defending our nation during the 20 years since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, including the thousands of servicemembers who have lost their lives in overseas engagements, up to last month's terrorist attack at the Kabul airport in which 13 U.S. servicemembers were killed; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this day be observed with full solemnity, in tribute to the thousands of innocent victims who perished in the attacks;

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 Saturday, September 11, 2021 in recognition and mourning of all of those lost in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, including the nearly 700 New Jerseyans lost from our home State.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
10<sup>th</sup> 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