

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 382

WHEREAS, Charles "Chuck" Hardwick, a former Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, was born on November 8, 1941, in Somerset, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the son of a maintenance worker whose mother tragically died when he was 5, Speaker Hardwick graduated from Central High School in Akron, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hardwick went on to attend Florida State University to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in 1962, and a Master's degree in business administration in 1964, with the assistance of a teaching fellowship; and

WHEREAS, before embarking on his career in elected office, Speaker Hardwick worked in sales for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and quickly rose through the ranks to a promotion that brought him to Westfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Speaker Hardwick was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly to represent the 20th Legislative District; and was re-elected six times thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hardwick began his tenure in the Assembly as an early advocate for reducing subpar conditions in county jails and creating uniform standards across county jails; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hardwick's remarkable 14-year term in the Assembly included four years as speaker of the Assembly, where he fought to establish fairer tax policies, supported programs to help those struggling with gambling addiction, sponsored legislation to strengthen the rights of adoptees to access medical records, and advocated for legislation that would prevent strip searches for individuals charged with minor offenses; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed Speaker Hardwick to be a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Federalism; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from politics in 1990, Speaker Hardwick served as Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs at Pfizer, where he worked on various global initiatives,

including providing health care to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) patients in the United States and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hardwick took great pride in serving the people of New Jersey, and particularly those of the 20th and 21st Legislative Districts; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hardwick was a loving husband to Sheilagh Mylott, his wife, father to three children - Ginger, Chuck, Jr., and Austin - and grandfather to three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness that we mourn the passing of Speaker Hardwick, who will be sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the people of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the life, legacy, friendship, and accomplishments of Speaker Hardwick, 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, February 28, 2025, in recognition and mourning of a dedicated legislator and public servant, Speaker Chuck Hardwick.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
26th day of February,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five,
and of the Independence of the
United States, the Two Hundred
and Forty-Ninth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor