

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 373

WHEREAS, President Jimmy Carter was born James Earl Carter, Jr. on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia, to James Earl Carter, Sr. and Bessie Lillian Carter (née Gordy); and

WHEREAS, President Carter graduated from Plains High School, and after beginning his undergraduate studies at Georgia Southwestern College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, was admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943 and graduated in 1946, when he was commissioned as an ensign; and

WHEREAS, shortly after graduation, President Carter married Rosalynn Smith, beginning a loving marriage that would last for over 77 years; and

WHEREAS, President Carter served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1953, during which time he was deployed in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and was assigned to work with the Navy's nuclear submarine program; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 1952, during a partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor at Chalk River Laboratories in Deep River, Canada, President Carter led a U.S. maintenance crew to assist in the shutdown of the reactor, and went into the reactor for 90 seconds to assist with disassembly, exposing himself to a level of radiation that is approximately 1,000 times greater than the permissible limit today; and

WHEREAS, after his father died of pancreatic cancer in 1953, President Carter left active duty at the rank of Lieutenant and moved back to Plains to manage the family's peanut business; and

WHEREAS, despite initial struggles to keep the farm afloat, President Carter and Rosalynn were eventually able to grow the peanut business and become financially successful; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, President Carter was elected to the State Senate in Georgia, where he would serve for four years and help to expand statewide education funding; and

WHEREAS, after running unsuccessfully for Governor of Georgia in 1966, President Carter was elected to that position in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in his inaugural address as Governor, President Carter declared "the time of racial discrimination is over," and he went on to expand the number of Black employees in state government and to take other steps to address the persistence of racial discrimination in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, President Carter also signed legislation providing equal aid to schools in wealthy and poor areas and supporting early childhood development; and

WHEREAS, with Georgia having a one-term limit for governors at the time, President Carter announced in late 1974 that he would run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in the 1976 election; and

WHEREAS, despite having little national name recognition at the time of his announcement, President Carter campaigned intensely across the country and surprised many by winning the Democratic nomination; and

WHEREAS, after selecting then-U.S. Senator Walter Mondale as his running mate, President Carter defeated the incumbent President, Gerald Ford, and was inaugurated as President on January 20, 1977; and

WHEREAS, responding to an energy crisis that began in 1973, President Carter made energy reform the centerpiece of his domestic agenda, and in 1978 signed comprehensive legislation, which deregulated the sale of natural gas and created tax credits to

encourage energy conservation and discourage the use of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, President Carter also signed legislation expanding the Head Start program, deregulating the airline industry and opening air fares up to competition, and creating the Superfund program, which was designed to clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, President Carter's administration was the first to recognize the problem of global warming, decades before any sustained action was taken to confront this existential threat; and

WHEREAS, during a time of high inflation, President Carter named Paul Volcker as Chair of the Federal Reserve Board, who pursued a tight monetary policy that was able to successfully bring down inflation and restore price stability over a period of years outlasting President Carter's tenure; and

WHEREAS, President Carter was the first President to appoint women and people of color to the federal judiciary in significant numbers, and his federal circuit court appointees included Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, both of whom would go on to serve on the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, President Carter placed a new emphasis on human rights in foreign policy, limiting support to a number of dictatorships in Latin America and strongly opposing white minority rule in Rhodesia and South Africa; and

WHEREAS, in September 1978, President Carter invited Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Camp David, and personally conducted 13 days of intense mediation between the two leaders that resulted in the Camp David Accords, under which Israel returned territory in the Sinai

Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for normal diplomatic relations between the two countries, which have lasted until this day; and

WHEREAS, the end of President Carter's term in office was overshadowed by crises in foreign affairs -- Iranian revolutionaries taking Americans hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the Soviet Union invading Afghanistan -- which complicated ratification of a nuclear limitation treaty that President Carter had negotiated; and

WHEREAS, facing a number of challenges at home and abroad, President Carter was defeated for re-election in the 1980 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, despite his defeat, President Carter spent much of the transition negotiating a release of the remaining American hostages in Iran, and an agreement was reached on January 19, 1981, which allowed the 52 American hostages to be returned to the United States safely; and

WHEREAS, following his presidency, President Carter founded the Carter Center, a non-governmental organization founded to advance human rights and alleviate human suffering; and

WHEREAS, among its many achievements, the Carter Center worked alongside the World Health Organization to nearly eradicate Guinea worm disease, reducing the number of cases from 3.5 million in the mid-1980s to 10 in 2021; and

WHEREAS, throughout his post-presidency, President Carter and his wife Rosalynn volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, working alongside 104,000 volunteers in 14 countries to build, renovate, and repair 4,390 homes, including homes in Union Beach, New Jersey that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful

solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development", and today he is one of only four U.S. Presidents to have won the award; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the White House and returning to Plains, President Carter taught Sunday school regularly for nearly 40 years, well into his 90s; and

WHEREAS, Rosalynn Carter passed away on November 19, 2023, at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2024, President Carter passed away at the age of 100 at his home in Plains; and

WHEREAS, President Carter leaves behind an unparalleled legacy as a global statesman, devoted citizen and volunteer, and model of decency and humility; and

WHEREAS, the world is a safer and more humane place because of President Carter's decades of service in public and private life; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to extend our sincerest sympathies to President Carter's friends and family, including his four children, and to honor and celebrate his life;

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 until sunset on January 28, 2025, consistent with federal law and directives, in recognition and mourning of a dedicated public servant and global statesman, President Jimmy Carter.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
31st day of December,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four,
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