

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 255**

WHEREAS, for almost twenty years, members of the United States Armed Forces have been deployed to Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, over the past several days, as the Taliban returned to power and the United States prepared to withdraw its remaining troops from Afghanistan, members of our United States Armed Forces have bravely and tirelessly worked to protect both United States citizens and our Afghan allies; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, at least thirteen members of our United States Armed Forces, as well as many dozens of innocent Afghan civilians, were killed in a suicide bomb attack near the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, while hundreds of other individuals suffered injuries; and

WHEREAS, this attack has caused a tremendous loss of life, and further inflicted incalculable pain and anguish on the families who lost loved ones; and

WHEREAS, we are forever grateful to our Armed Forces for their extraordinary sacrifices in the protection of our country and our State; and

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of all those who lost their lives in the attack on August 26, 2021, and extend our deepest sympathy to their families, friends, colleagues, and communities; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for us all to keep in our thoughts and prayers all of those who have been affected by this attack and are suffering; and

WHEREAS, as a mark of respect for those killed in this terrorist attack, President Biden has ordered that all U.S. flags be flown at half-staff at all public buildings and grounds until sunset on August 30, 2021;

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, until sunset on Monday, August 30, 2021, in recognition and mourning of the United States Armed Forces members and innocent civilians who lost their lives in the attack at the Kabul airport on August 26, 2021.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
27<sup>th</sup> day of August,  
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