

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 204

WHEREAS, Antonin Gregory Scalia was a New Jersey native and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and we, the grateful citizens of this State and this country, shall be forever indebted to him for his outstanding service and enduring contributions to our system of justice; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia was born in 1936 to an Italian immigrant father and an Italian-American mother in our State's capital, Trenton; and

WHEREAS, even at a young age, Justice Scalia's brilliance was readily apparent, graduating as valedictorian of his high school class in 1953, and then earning a degree in history from Georgetown University in 1957, where he was a champion debater, and once again valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia subsequently began his formal study of the law, enrolling at Harvard Law School, from which he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia filled important roles in the Nixon and Ford Administrations, including a leadership position in the United States Department of Justice, for which he was confirmed by the United States Senate in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia's striking intellect and impeccable character were subsequently recognized by President Ronald Reagan, who, in 1982, appointed Justice Scalia to the influential United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan soon saw that Justice Scalia's distinctive talents warranted his appointment to our nation's highest court, and after winning unanimous confirmation from the Senate in 1986, Justice Scalia became the first Italian-American Supreme Court Justice in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the following thirty years, Justice Scalia tirelessly immersed himself in the cases before him, authoring opinions that not only reflected his extraordinary legal acumen, unmistakable wit, and masterful writing style, but also his unparalleled understanding of history, government, and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia was steadfast in his allegiance to the Constitution, interpreting it in accordance with its original intent, viewing our founding legal document as embodying the unwavering, bedrock principles of our nation, not subject to the whims of the day or popular opinion; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia will be remembered among the most influential jurists in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia was a devoted husband to his wife of over 55 years, Maureen, with whom he had nine children and a remarkable 36 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia was also man of deep religious conviction, who was guided by his unshakable faith in God and his fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia will be remembered as a man of flawless character, with an endearing sense of humor and enrapturing charm, who was highly respected and loved by people across the ideological spectrum; and

WHEREAS, although his passing is a tremendous and irreparable loss for our nation, we should be heartened that Justice Scalia has inspired and influenced countless judges, scholars, and lawyers, and that his professional legacy will live on in his insightful opinions and other writings, which will continue to have lasting, positive impacts on our nation's jurisprudence for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we mourn the heartbreaking loss of Justice Scalia, the longest-serving Justice on our current Supreme Court, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends, colleagues, and many admirers; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor and mark the passing of Antonin Gregory Scalia, an incomparable Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and extraordinary man whose memory will live on for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, 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 from Friday, February 19, 2016, through Saturday, February 20, 2016, in recognition and mourning of the passing of Justice Antonin Gregory Scalia.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
17th day of February,
Two Thousand and Sixteen,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Fortieth.

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo

Chief Counsel to the Governor