

Governor Phil Murphy

Statement by Governor Murphy on the Passing of Former Governor Dick Codey

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"If anybody embodied our proud New Jersey values, it was Governor Dick Codey.

"He proved that every single day of his life. Whether as Governor or as the longest-serving lawmaker in New Jersey history, Dick built a safer, healthier future for all of us. From championing funding for mental health care and stem cell research to advancing smoke-free indoor spaces in New Jersey, Dick protected every one of our communities and sought to cultivate the potential of every one of our neighbors.

"Dick's legacy of heroic service extends well beyond the walls of the State House. As a coach for youth basketball teams, he inspired young New Jerseyans to strive for greatness – on and off the court. As a funeral director, he consoled our families during their darkest moments and guided them through grief and loss. And as a dear, personal friend, Dick was there for Tammy and me, back when it was cold, dark, and lonely.

"When Dick announced his retirement from the Legislature back in 2023, he wisely observed that 'public service is about making a difference in the lives of people. It's about working together to create a better future for everyone.' For more than half a century, Dick did exactly that. He distinguished himself as the consummate public servant, working alongside New Jerseyans of all beliefs and backgrounds to chart a brighter path forward. He will be dearly missed.

"On behalf of a grateful state: Thank you, Dick, for everything you have given New Jersey. Tammy and I are sending our love and deepest condolences to Dick's wife, Mary Jo, their two sons, Kevin and Christopher, and the entire Codey family."

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