

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 182

WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant Vincent P. Marketta was a lifelong product of Ocean County and most recently resided in Brick Township; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta graduated from Brick High School in 2005 and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Black Hawk helicopter repairer in 2011; and

WHEREAS, following extensive training and assessment, Staff Sergeant Marketta was assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) in 2012; and

WHEREAS, soldiers within the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known as "Night Stalkers," are recognized for their proficiency in nighttime military engagements; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta dedicated eighteen months to aircraft repair within the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment before he was promoted to an MH-60M Crew Chief in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta completed or graduated from the Enlisted Combat Skills, Combatives Level 1, MH-60 Maintainers Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape School, MH-60 Non-Rated Crew Member Course, the Basic and Advanced Leaders Courses, and the MH-60 Flight Instructors Course; and

WHEREAS, while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Staff Sergeant Marketta was first deployed to Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta subsequently served multiple tours in Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in action against the Islamic State; and

WHEREAS, during his eleven years of service to the United States, Staff Sergeant Marketta received many awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal

with V device, Air Medal with C device, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with C device (20LC), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (10LC), Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (Campaign Star), Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 2), Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, and the Basic Aviator's Badge; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta tragically lost his life while engaged in training operations on San Clemente Island in California on August 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Marketta was a beloved member of our New Jersey family whose presence will be immensely missed by his family, his friends, his fellow servicemembers, and by the people of New Jersey and around the country whom are grateful for his service; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness that we mourn Staff Sergeant Marketta's sudden passing, and extend our deepest sympathy and gratitude to his family, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the exemplary character, outstanding achievements, and cherished memory of Staff Sergeant Marketta 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 Tuesday, September 1, 2020, in recognition and mourning of a courageous and loyal American hero, Staff Sergeant Vincent P. Marketta.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
31st day of August,
Two Thousand and Twenty, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Fifth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor