EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 16

WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Marcos Gorra, was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, and came to the United States when he was seven years old; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from North Bergen High School, Sergeant Gorra enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division in February 2008 and then the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gorra served in Korea and at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he earned his paratrooper certification; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gorra was an ambitious and courageous young man who loved his country and the military and had plans to become a New Jersey State Trooper after serving in the Army; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gorra tragically lost his life while heroically and selflessly serving his country in southern Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gorra was a dedicated soldier as well as a loving son and brother, whose memory lives in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gorra's patriotism and dedicated service to his country and his fellow soldiers make it appropriate and fitting for the State of New Jersey to remember him and his family, to mark his passing, and to honor his memory;

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 on Friday, March 5, 2010, in recognition and mourning of a brave and loyal American hero, United States Army Sergeant Marcos Gorra.

2.   This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this 3rd day of March, Two Thousand and Ten, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Thirty-Fourth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor