

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 47

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush was born George Herbert Walker Bush on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, to Prescott Sheldon Bush and Dorothy Walker Bush; and

WHEREAS, on his eighteenth birthday in 1942, only six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Bush enlisted in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 1943, President Bush was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve, making him one of the youngest aviators in the U.S. Navy, if not the youngest; and

WHEREAS, President Bush flew 58 combat missions during World War II in the Pacific Theater; and

WHEREAS, during one of these combat missions, which took place on September 2, 1944, President Bush's aircraft was hit by enemy fire, setting the engine ablaze; and

WHEREAS, despite his aircraft's condition, President Bush completed the attack on the specified target, before ejecting himself from the aircraft; and

WHEREAS, President Bush landed in the Pacific Ocean and floated on a raft for hours before being rescued by a U.S. Navy submarine; and

WHEREAS, for his bravery and heroism during this incident, President Bush received the Distinguished Flying Cross, and also received three Air Medals and a Presidential Unit Citation for his service during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after his marriage to Barbara Pierce and his discharge from the military, President Bush enrolled at Yale University, where he was captain of the baseball team and received a degree in economics in two-and-a-half years, graduating Phi Beta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation from Yale, President Bush and his family moved to West Texas, where he co-founded an oil exploration business that led to financial success; and

WHEREAS, President Bush began his political career in 1963, when he was elected to chair the Republican Party in Harris County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, following an unsuccessful bid for the United States Senate, President Bush was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1966, where he served two terms; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, despite substantial political opposition in his district, President Bush voted in favor of the Fair Housing Act, which made it unlawful to refuse to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of their race, color, religion, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, after another unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate, President Bush was appointed as Ambassador to the United Nations in 1971, and held this post for two years; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Watergate break-in, President Bush was asked by President Richard M. Nixon to chair the Republican National Committee, which he did for two years; and

WHEREAS, in September 1974, President Bush was asked by President Gerald R. Ford to serve as Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office to the People's Republic of China, where he acted as the unofficial Ambassador to China, which had not yet been formally recognized by the United States; and

WHEREAS, in January 1976, President Bush was appointed as Director of Central Intelligence, and served in this role for the remainder of the Ford administration; and

WHEREAS, President Bush made his first bid for the presidency in 1980, when he won the Iowa caucuses before eventually succumbing to Ronald W. Reagan, the former Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, President Bush was asked by then-Governor Reagan to be his running mate, and, after the Reagan-Bush ticket won the 1980 presidential election, President Bush served as Vice President of the United States from 1981 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, President Bush again ran for the presidency in 1988, and this time won the Republican nomination and was elected President of the United States, winning 40 out of 50 states; and

WHEREAS, President Bush carefully navigated the United States through the end of the Cold War, with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union occurring during his term in office; and

WHEREAS, President Bush signed the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union in July 1991, which eventually resulted in the removal of 80 percent of all strategic nuclear weapons then in existence, and signed the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in January 1993; and

WHEREAS, President Bush was an unwavering supporter of German reunification, and his efforts led to a unified Germany becoming a full member of NATO and a key partner in the trans-Atlantic alliance; and

WHEREAS, President Bush led the worldwide opposition to Saddam Hussein's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and successfully assembled a global coalition to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, after obtaining a United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing "all necessary means" to force Iraq out of Kuwait and securing approval from the U.S. Congress, President Bush ordered the commencement of Operation Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, following a six-week bombing campaign and four days of tactical ground operations that forced Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, President Bush declared a ceasefire on February 28, 1991, and announced the liberation of Kuwait; and

WHEREAS, in domestic matters, President Bush signed several landmark pieces of legislation, including a reauthorized and strengthened Clean Air Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, President Bush achieved a reasonable compromise with the Democratic-controlled Congress that raised taxes on the wealthiest Americans, paving the way for the balanced budgets of the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, after unsuccessfully seeking re-election, President Bush served as a well-respected elder statesman, lending his support to numerous worthy humanitarian causes; and

WHEREAS, President Bush memorably joined with President William J. Clinton, the man who had defeated him in the 1992 election, to raise funds for the victims of the 2004 tsunami in Asia and Hurricane Katrina, and the two formed a deep friendship that served as an inspiring example of the ability to move beyond partisan differences; and

WHEREAS, during his post-presidency, I had the privilege of getting to know President Bush, particularly during the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, when I, as our Ambassador to Germany, hosted President Bush during his final overseas trip and had his portrait hung in the German Senate; and

WHEREAS, throughout his political career and life, President Bush was a devoted husband and father, with his marriage to Barbara lasting over 73 years until her passing earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, President Bush and Barbara had six children, and enjoyed the privilege of seeing one of their sons, George W. Bush, also be elected President of the United States, and another son, Jeb Bush, serve two terms as Governor of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, President George H.W. Bush passed away at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, President Bush dedicated his life to public service, as a soldier, elected official, diplomat, President, and statesman; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's personal decency, civility, and integrity are a reminder that we in public life can disagree without being disagreeable; and

WHEREAS, President Bush leaves behind a world that is safer and more prosperous because of his lifetime of public service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to extend our sincerest sympathies to President Bush's family and friends, and to honor and celebrate his life;

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 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 until sunset on Sunday, December 30, 2018, consistent with federal law and directives, in recognition and mourning of the passing of President George H.W. Bush.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
2nd day of December,
Two Thousand and Eighteen, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two Hundred
and Forty-Third.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor