

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Directs the Lowering of U.S. and New Jersey Flags in Honor of Former Governor Dick Codey

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TRENTON– Governor Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 413, ordering U.S. and New Jersey flags to fly at half-staff from Thursday, January 22 through sunset on Saturday, January 24 to remember and celebrate the life of former Governor Richard “Dick” James Codey.

Governor Codey was first elected to the New Jersey General Assembly at just 27 years old. He went on to serve in the Legislature for 50 years, becoming the longest-serving legislator in state history. Throughout his career in public service, Governor Codey was a fierce leader on issues including public health, affordability, and gun safety. He championed funding for mental health care and stem cell research, and signed the Smoke-Free Air Act which banned smoking indoors at public spaces across New Jersey. In his personal capacity, Governor Codey served his community by coaching youth basketball, mentoring first-generation college students, and working as a funeral director. He passed away on January 11, 2026 and is survived by his wife, Mary Jo, their two sons, and their grandchildren.

“As our longest-serving state legislator, Dick was a true champion for New Jersey communities,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Just last year, I signed legislation designating the State House visitor’s center as the ‘Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center’ to honor his remarkable legacy of service. Tammy and I share our condolences and prayers with Dick’s family and community at this difficult time.”

For a copy of Executive Order No. 413, click

[here \(https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20260115/2f/e5/55/e2/5208d9208ee8f86f8fb4361d/EO-413.pdf\)](https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20260115/2f/e5/55/e2/5208d9208ee8f86f8fb4361d/EO-413.pdf).

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