

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 358**

WHEREAS, New Jersey State Police Trooper Marcellus E. Bethea, age 33, was a member of the 156th State Police Academy Class and served as a State Trooper for over eight years; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea was born in Edison, New Jersey, and was raised by his parents Walter and Sheila Bethea in Columbus, New Jersey, alongside his brother Darrus; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea graduated from Northern Burlington Regional High School in 2009, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and Justice from Rowan University in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea was a loving husband to his wife Katarzyna and father to his daughter Bella; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea, a resident of Florence, New Jersey, was a dedicated member of Troop D at the Moorestown Station in Burlington County; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea was training to become a member of the elite Technical Emergency and Mission Specialist Unit, which is intended to handle extraordinary police emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea inspired others by embodying the core values of the State Police -- Honor, Duty, and Fidelity -- and by living a life guided by his deep faith; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Bethea tragically passed away on May 5, 2024, during training activities; and

WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow that we mourn the loss of Trooper Bethea, who bravely served our State with honor, integrity, and selflessness, and extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Trooper Bethea is a profound tragedy not only for those closest to him but also for the people of New Jersey, who will always be grateful for his service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to honor the exemplary character, outstanding achievements, and cherished memory of Trooper Bethea, 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 Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in recognition and mourning of New Jersey State Police Trooper Marcellus E. Bethea, Badge #7829.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
14<sup>th</sup> day of May,  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four,  
and of the Independence of  
the United States, the Two  
Hundred and Forty-Eighth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor