

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 45

WHEREAS, W. Cary Edwards was an exceptional man with a tremendous capacity for life and people, a true leader, a fearless and accomplished attorney, trusted counselor, distinguished public servant, professor, mentor, and role model, as well as director of governmental, professional, and civic organizations, and a man deeply dedicated to his family and to serving others from all stations in life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards was born in Paterson and raised in Fair Lawn, New Jersey where his mother, Virginia Edwards, once served as mayor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards obtained his bachelor's degree in 1967 from Seton Hall University, graduated from the Seton Hall University School of Law in 1970 and was admitted to the New Jersey bar the same year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards was the organizer and first chairman of the Seton Hall Law School government body, president of the Seton Hall chapter of the National Legal Fraternity, and served as an adjunct professor, assistant dean of students, and course author at Seton Hall until 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards began his remarkable career of public service as an elected councilman and later as council president in Oakland, New Jersey in 1975; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1977 he was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in three elections, garnering in his last race the highest vote total ever recorded in an Assembly race, and was chosen to serve as assistant minority leader; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Edwards resigned from the Legislature when Governor Thomas H. Kean selected him to serve as Chief Counsel to the Governor, a position that he held with

distinction for four years while supervising a staff of thirty five attorneys and providing advice to the Governor on all aspects of Executive Branch responsibilities, including legislative and policy initiatives, preparation of the annual State budget, and oversight of the independent State authorities; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Mr. Edwards was nominated by Governor Kean and confirmed by the Senate to be Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, where he served with distinction as the State's chief law enforcement officer until 1989; and

WHEREAS, as Attorney General, Mr. Edwards worked closely with State, county, and federal law enforcement to develop and implement novel, community- and school-based strategies to address the demand for illegal drugs, while vigorously targeting drug traffickers; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Edwards also reformed and revamped the State's antiquated motor vehicle system; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Edwards also helped to develop, implement, and defend groundbreaking environmental legislation and pursued important legislative and administrative reforms to the State's law enforcement and criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many accomplishments as a public servant, Mr. Edwards was a well-respected attorney in private practice, a life member of the Board of Trustees of Monmouth University, lead director of the Board of Directors of South Jersey Industries, a charter member of the board of New Jersey Future, a visiting associate and former adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and the Eagleton Institute of Government, Public Policy and Politics, and a member of numerous other community and volunteer organizations, as well

as a candidate for Governor and the recipient of numerous honorary Doctor of Laws degrees and over 150 public and private service awards; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Governor Christine T. Whitman appointed Mr. Edwards to be a commissioner of the State Commission of Investigation ("SCI"), an independent fact-finding agency whose mission is to expose organized crime, public corruption, and waste and to recommend reforms for the benefit of New Jersey residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Mr. Edwards was named chairman of the SCI by Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, and he tirelessly and ably served in that capacity as a proponent of good government since that time; and

WHEREAS, it is rare in public life to encounter a man of such achievement, talent, good humor, and passion who is respected by all, regardless of partisan identity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards' extraordinary life and accomplishments were characterized by integrity, candor, humility, bravery, and a sincere belief that government exists to serve the people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards' courage and dignity are an enduring example for all who aspire to public service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Edwards demonstrated an abiding love for and commitment to his family, particularly his wife of 41 years, Lynn, and their two daughters and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of Mr. Edwards and extend our sincere sympathy to his family, his many friends and admirers, and his respectful colleagues; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to honor the memory and mourn the passing of Mr. Edwards;

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 Tuesday, October 26, 2010 in recognition and mourning of the passing of W. Cary Edwards.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
22nd day of October,
Two Thousand and Ten, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor