

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 189**

WHEREAS, Firefighter Gerald "Bear" Celecki was raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and lived in South Amboy, New Jersey, serving for more than fifty years in the fire departments of both cities; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki was a Chief of the Middlesex County Fire Police; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki was a longtime member of the South Amboy Fire Department, Progressive Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki was a member of the Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki was a member of the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki was a member of the Antique Fire Apparatus Association of Central New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki, a loving and devoted husband and brother, tragically lost his life while on the scene during an emergency response; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Celecki's dedication, determination, and selfless devotion to public service and the protection of others are worthy of recognition by all New Jerseyans; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting for the State of New Jersey to recognize his commitment to the welfare and safety of others, to mark his passing, to honor his memory, and to remember his many friends and his family as they mourn their tragic loss;

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 Thursday, October 22, 2015, in recognition of the life and in mourning of the passing of Firefighter Gerald "Bear" Celecki.

2. Furthermore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:3-12, the flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at the State House during appropriate hours in recognition of the life and in mourning of the passing of Firefighter Gerald "Bear" Celecki.

3. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
20<sup>th</sup> of October,  
Two Thousand and Fifteen,  
and of the Independence of  
the United States, the Two  
Hundred and Fortieth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo

Chief Counsel to the Governor