

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21

WHEREAS, United States Congressman Robert Douglas "Bob" Franks was an extraordinary figure in the public life of New Jersey, for over three decades devotedly serving the people of this State as an esteemed member of the United States House of Representatives; a member of the New Jersey General Assembly; chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee; and President of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey; and, as a result of his remarkable public service, today New Jersey is a better place because of him; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks was born in Hackensack, New Jersey, lived in Glen Rock, New Jersey, before moving to suburban Chicago, Illinois, and returning as a teenager to Union County, New Jersey, where he attended Summit High School; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks graduated from DePauw University in 1973 and from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1976; and

WHEREAS, after completing law school, Congressman Franks returned home to New Jersey and helped found the Union County Young Republicans, and served as a key advisor to numerous candidates including Senator Ray Bateman in his 1977 gubernatorial campaign, Governor Thomas Kean in his 1981 gubernatorial election, and Congressmen Jim Courter and Dean Gallo in their respective campaigns; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Congressman Franks was elected to serve in the New Jersey General Assembly and was subsequently re-elected for six terms, representing the 22nd legislative district, which covered Union and Somerset Counties; and

WHEREAS, among Congressman Franks' many accomplishments during his tenure in the New Jersey State Legislature, he sponsored the law creating the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, while serving in the General Assembly, Congressman Franks led the New Jersey Republican State Committee as its chairman from 1987 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1992, and also was elected by his Republican colleagues in the Assembly to serve as conference leader in both the 202nd and 203rd Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Congressman Franks was elected to the United States House of Representatives where he served for four terms until 2001, representing the 7th congressional district, which covered parts of Union, Somerset, Middlesex, and Essex Counties; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in Congress, Congressman Franks served on the Budget Committee and Transportation & Infrastructure Committees, as well as serving as chairman of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Transportation Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in Congress, Congressman Franks was a founder and co-chairman of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in Congress, Congressman Franks was a strong voice for fiscal responsibility, child protection, and for improving New Jersey's infrastructure and transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Congressman Franks was the Republican nominee for the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Congressman Franks was a candidate for the nomination for Governor of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Congressman Franks was appointed President of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, located in Bridgewater, New Jersey, where he continued his strong involvement in public policy by advocating for advancing New Jersey's pharmaceutical and medical technology industry, reducing the cost of healthcare, and emphasizing job creation; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks was a man of all the people of New Jersey and was determined to do what he thought was right for the people of New Jersey, whether it was fighting for affordable health care, child protection, the advancement of medical technology and pharmaceutical research, fiscal responsibility, or mass transit; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks understood not just the art of politics but the science of policy-making and was able to bridge the partisan divide in order to achieve the common good; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks enjoyed universal respect and affection because of his passion, pragmatism, warm-heartedness, generosity, intellect, compassion, courage, optimism, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, it is because of Congressman Franks' energy, selflessness, and graciousness that his legacy is felt across this State by so many both inside and outside of the public arena; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Franks, who will be remembered as one of the most sincere and effective public servants in New Jersey's history, inspired countless individuals to serve this State and this Nation; and

WHEREAS, through Congressman Franks' accomplishments in both the public and private sectors, he has made New Jersey and this Nation a better place; and

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we mourn the loss of Congressman Bob Franks and extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Fran, their three daughters, his mother, his entire family, his many friends, and his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the achievements, the memory, and the passing of Congressman Bob Franks;

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 the State of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Friday, April 16, 2010, in recognition and mourning of the passing of United States Congressman Bob Franks.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
14th day of **April**,
Two Thousand and Ten, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fourth.

/s/Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor