

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 232

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2017, a United States Navy ship, the U.S.S. John S. McCain, was involved in a collision near Singapore; and

WHEREAS, ten United States Navy sailors lost their lives in this tragedy, namely, United States Navy Petty Officer Second Class Kenneth Smith, Petty Officer First Class Kevin Bushell, Petty Officer Second Class Dustin Doyon, Petty Officer Second Class Jacob Drake, Petty Officer Second Class Timothy Eckels, Chief Petty Officer Charles Findley, Petty Officer Second Class John Hoagland III, Petty Officer First Class Corey Ingram, Chief Petty Officer Abraham Lopez, and Petty Officer Second Class Logan Palmer; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith resided in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and graduated from Cherry Hill High School East in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith served honorably in the United States 7th Fleet, and was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Navy Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith was a brave and dedicated third-generation sailor, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather in the Navy; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith was a loving son, whose memory will live in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow sailors; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting for the State of New Jersey to remember Petty Officer Smith and all the victims of this tragedy, to mark their passing, and to honor their memories;

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 Saturday, September 16, 2017, in recognition of the life of and in mourning for the passing of a brave and loyal United States Navy sailor, Petty Officer Second Class Kenneth Smith, and all the heroic sailors who lost their lives as a result of this terrible incident.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

[seal] GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
13th day of September,
Two Thousand and Seventeen,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Second.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ James J. DiGiulio

Chief Counsel to the Governor