

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 390**

WHEREAS, Brian M. Hughes, a former County Executive of Mercer County, was born on May 5, 1956, in Trenton, New Jersey, and lived most of his life in Trenton and Princeton; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes was the son of former New Jersey Governor and Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes and Elizabeth Sullivan Hughes; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes graduated from Thomas Edison State College, which he later helped become Thomas Edison State University; and

WHEREAS, early in his career, County Executive Hughes lived and worked in Washington, DC, and served as Deputy Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, County Executive Hughes was elected to Mercer County's Board of Chosen Freeholders, now the Board of County Commissioners, where he served two terms, including one term as Freeholder President; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, County Executive Hughes was elected to serve as Mercer County Executive, becoming the first Democrat to hold the post in more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes served an unprecedented five terms as Mercer County Executive, winning re-election in 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes retired as County Executive on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, during his 20-year tenure, County Executive Hughes improved the lives of Mercer County residents through open space preservation, infrastructure development, and improved delivery of social services, among other accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes also served in leadership roles in the County Executives of America, a national, nonpartisan organization representing chief elected county officials across the United States; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes was well known for his commitment to public service, his passion for helping those in need, and his principled leadership in improving the lives of Mercer County residents; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes embodied the highest ideals of public service, and his legacy of kindness, compassion, and integrity will inspire generations to come; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes passed away on June 10, 2025, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Hughes is survived by Pamela, his wife of nearly 35 years; their son, Sullivan; and numerous siblings, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of County Executive Hughes, who will be deeply missed by his family, friends, former colleagues, and Mercer County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the life, legacy, friendship, and many accomplishments of County Executive Hughes, 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, June 18, 2025, in recognition and mourning of dedicated public servant, former Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
17<sup>th</sup> day of June,  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five,  
and of the Independence of  
the United States, the Two  
Hundred and Forty-Ninth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor