

Executive Order No. 2018-60

WHEREAS, I have been notified of the passing of former President George Herbert Walker Bush, who served as the forty-first President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, President Bush dutifully served the United States of America as a member of the House of Representatives from 1967 to 1971, Ambassador to the United Nations from 1971 to 1973, Chief of the United States Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China from 1974 to 1975, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1976 to 1977, Vice President from 1981 to 1989, and President from 1989 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, prior to his distinguished and patriotic public service, President Bush served honorably and heroically in World War II, having enlisted in the United States Navy on his eighteenth birthday, six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, before completing flight training and accepting an officer's commission to become the youngest aviator in United States naval history; and

WHEREAS, President Bush flew fifty-eight combat missions in the Pacific Theater during World War II, including a September 2, 1944 attack on Japanese installations on the island of Chichi Jima, during which President Bush's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and engulfed in flames, yet President Bush was able to successfully complete his attack and release bombs over his assigned target before having to eject from the aircraft and evade enemy detection until he was rescued by a United States Navy submarine; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his extraordinary bravery and courageous military service during World War II, President Bush received numerous decorations and awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, and a Presidential Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime of service to the United States of America, President Bush boldly fought for and effectively advanced the cause of freedom around the world, ultimately leading our nation to the end of the Cold War and helping usher in an era of unprecedented peace and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's longest-lived leader and the last World War II veteran to serve as President of the United States of America, President Bush continued to contribute his time and energy in service to this country after leaving public office, championing a variety of civic and charitable causes and consistently demonstrating his characteristic but uncommon combination of compassion, integrity, and humility in all such endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to the memory of President Bush, and as an expression of public sorrow, the President of the United States of America has issued a Proclamation directing that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions for a period of thirty days from the day of President Bush's death and appointing December 5, 2018, as a National Day of Mourning; and

WHEREAS, President Bush was a remarkable individual, dedicated father and family man, decorated World War II veteran, accomplished diplomat, and principled leader who will forever serve as an inspiration to all Americans, and his passing warrants the people of this State further recognizing and appropriately honoring his extraordinary legacy of selfless statesmanship and his lifetime of distinguished and patriotic service to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, section 10-1-161 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, authorizes the Governor to order that the flags atop the State Capitol Building be lowered to half-staff for a designated period of time upon the death of a person of extraordinary stature, for a period of thirty days from the date of death of a former President, and for the same designated time when an act of the United States Congress or a presidential order is issued to lower flags to half-staff over federal buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and of these United States and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby Order that the flags atop the State Capitol Building and on all state buildings shall be lowered to half-staff until December 30, 2018, consistent with my prior directive, in tribute to President Bush's extraordinary legacy of selfless statesmanship and his lifetime of distinguished and patriotic service to the United States of America. As a mark of respect to President Bush, I further direct that December 5, 2018, shall be a Day of Remembrance throughout the State of South Carolina, and I encourage all South Carolinians to reflect upon and honor the life and legacy of President Bush. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 4th DAY OF
DECEMBER, 2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**