

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2023-37

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been notified of the passing of Reverend Lester P. Branham, Jr., who previously served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his dutiful service as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Reverend Lester P. Branham, Jr. previously served the State of South Carolina as a member of the Board of Trustees for Florence County School District No. 3 and in various other state and local capacities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Lester P. Branham, Jr. was a dedicated public servant, principled leader, tireless advocate for his State and constituents, and devoted father and family man, and his passing warrants the people of this State further recognizing and appropriately honoring his extraordinary legacy and lifetime of service to the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Title 4, Section 7(m) of the United States Code, as amended, provides that “[i]n the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, . . . the Governor of that State . . . may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff”; and

WHEREAS, section 10-1-161(E) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides that “upon the death of a person of extraordinary stature, the Governor may order that the flags atop the State Capitol Building be lowered to half-staff at a designated time or for a designated period of time.”

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 be lowered to half-staff from sunrise until sunset on Friday, October 27, 2023, in honor of Reverend

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October 25, 2023

Lester P. Branham, Jr. and in recognition of his extraordinary legacy and lifetime of service to the State of South Carolina. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 25th DAY OF
OCTOBER, 2023.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State