

EXECUTIVE ORDER No.

2026-20

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been notified of the passing of Officer Christopher Michael DeLong, Jr. of the Columbia Police Department, who dutifully served as a law enforcement officer in this State and died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Officer DeLong dedicated his life to protecting and serving the people of the State of South Carolina, and his loss warrants the people of this State appropriately recognizing his distinguished service and honoring his supreme sacrifice; 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 first responder working in any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving in the line of duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff”; and

WHEREAS, section 1-3-470 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, authorizes the undersigned, on the day of burial or other service for any law enforcement officer in this State who died in the line of duty, to order that all flags on state buildings be lowered to half-staff in tribute to the deceased law enforcement officer and to request that flags over the buildings of the political subdivisions of this State similarly be flown at half-staff for this purpose.

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 that the flags atop the State Capitol be lowered to half-staff from sunrise until sunset on Friday, September 4, 2026, in tribute to Officer Christopher Michael DeLong, Jr. and in honor of his distinguished service and supreme

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sacrifice. I request that the flags over state buildings and buildings of the political subdivisions of this State similarly be flown at half-staff for this purpose. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 2nd DAY
OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.**

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State