

Executive Order No. 2018-25

WHEREAS, I have been notified of the passing of John Sidney McCain, III, senior United States Senator from the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Senator McCain represented the United States of America and the State of Arizona with honor and distinction as a member of Congress from 1983 until his passing on August 25, 2018, at the age of 81, dutifully serving in the United States House of Representatives from 1983 to 1987, and in the United States Senate since 1987; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Senator McCain was nominated by the Republican Party as its candidate for President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, prior to his distinguished tenure in Congress, Senator McCain, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, served honorably and heroically in the United States Navy for twenty-three years, including extensive combat duty as a naval aviator; and

WHEREAS, while flying a bombing mission in support of Operation Rolling Thunder during the Vietnam War, Senator McCain's aircraft was shot down and he was captured and held by the North Vietnamese as a prisoner of war for over five years; and

WHEREAS, the North Vietnamese offered to release Senator McCain, who was the son and grandson of admirals, for propaganda purposes when his father was named commander of all American forces in the Vietnamese theater; however, Senator McCain refused release, in accordance with the military code of conduct governing prisoners of war, unless and until every prisoner of war captured before him was also released; and

WHEREAS, Senator McCain continued to endure unimaginable torture and inhumane treatment for over four more years after refusing an offer of early release, yet Senator McCain never relented despite suffering tremendously at the hands of his captors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his incredible bravery and courageous military service, Senator McCain received numerous decorations and awards, including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Prisoner of War Medal, three Bronze Stars, two Legion of Merit medals, two Purple Hearts, and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals; and

WHEREAS, Senator McCain was a remarkable man, decorated American hero, and dedicated and respected public servant, and his distinguished and patriotic service is an inspiration to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Senator McCain warrants the people of this State further recognizing and appropriately honoring his extraordinary legacy and lifetime of distinguished and patriotic service to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, section 10-1-161(E) 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 at a designated time or for a designated period of time upon the death of a person of extraordinary stature.

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 be lowered to half-staff until sunset on the day of Senator McCain's internment in tribute to Senator McCain's extraordinary

legacy and lifetime of distinguished and patriotic service to the United States of America. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST,
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**