

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2023-10

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been notified of the recovery of the remains of fourteen unidentified soldiers who fought in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War and died at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been further informed that twelve of these individuals are believed to have been members of the Continental Army, and as such, these Patriots were among America’s first soldiers and veterans, having bravely fought for the causes of liberty, sovereignty, and self-government and paid the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of the then-unrealized principles of freedom and independence that Americans now have the right and opportunity to enjoy and the obligation to preserve and defend; and

WHEREAS, these Patriots dedicated their lives to protecting and serving the people of the United States and the State of South Carolina, and their loss warrants the people of this State continuing to recognize their distinguished service and remarkable bravery and honoring their supreme sacrifice by appropriately providing for the perpetual care of, and respect for, their remains; and

WHEREAS, the two remaining soldiers—one of whom is believed to have been a member of the British 71st Regiment of Foot, Fraser’s Highlanders, and the other a Loyalist soldier from North Carolina—may not have fought and died in furtherance of the principles of freedom and American independence, but they nevertheless similarly served and selflessly sacrificed their lives for their country and its causes, and their remains likewise should be afforded appropriate honor, dignity, and respect; and

WHEREAS, after extensive collaboration and coordination among the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Historic Camden Foundation, United States Department of Defense, and numerous other entities, officials, and individuals, the remains of

these soldiers have been excavated from their original shallow graves and will be ceremonially reinterred, with full military honors, on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the site of the August 16, 1780 Revolutionary War battle in Camden, 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 member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, . . . the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff”; and

WHEREAS, section 10-1-161 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, similarly provides that “the flags which are flown atop the State Capitol Building must be lowered to half-staff on the day on which funeral services are conducted for . . . members of the United States military services who were residents of South Carolina and who lost their lives in the line of duty while in combat”; and

WHEREAS, section 10-1-161 of the South Carolina Code of Laws further authorizes the Governor to order that the flags atop the State Capitol be lowered to half-staff at a designated time or for a designated period of time upon the occurrence of an extraordinary event resulting in death or 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 be lowered to half-staff from sunrise until sunset on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in tribute to the aforementioned soldiers who fought for freedom and American independence in the Revolutionary War and died at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, and in honor of their selfless service, remarkable bravery, and supreme sacrifice. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 21st DAY OF
APRIL, 2023.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State