

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 412**

WHEREAS, United States Representative Richard Alan ("Dick") Zimmer was born on August 16, 1944, in Newark, New Jersey to Evelyn (née Rader) and William Zimmer; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer grew up in New Jersey, spending his early years in Hillside and Bloomfield and later moving to Glen Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer graduated from Glen Ridge High School, where he was chosen as the class speaker for his graduation ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Yale College in 1966 and his law degree from Yale Law School, where he was editor of the Yale Law Journal, in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer began his legal career at Cravath, Swain & Moore where he worked from 1969 until 1975 and later joined Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, New Jersey as general counsel, where he worked from 1976 until 1990; and

WHEREAS, from 1974 to 1977, Representative Zimmer served as chairman of New Jersey Common Cause, leading efforts to increase government transparency; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, New Jersey Common Cause was instrumental to the passage of the Open Public Meetings Act ("OPMA"), commonly referred to as New Jersey's Sunshine Law, which requires that meetings of public bodies generally be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1981 and was the prime sponsor of New Jersey's first farmland preservation law; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, he won a special election to serve in the State Senate where he was a member of the Senate Revenue, Finance

and Appropriations Committee and sponsored a 1988 bill creating a statewide program for detecting and remediating radon; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Representative Zimmer was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, serving three terms from 1991 to 1997 during which he served on the House Ways and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, as a Member of Congress, Representative Zimmer authored Megan's Law, which requires residents to be notified when a convicted sex offender moves into their neighborhood and which passed both houses unanimously and was signed by President William Clinton in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer also helped pass the Safe Drinking Water Act, which mandated water quality standards for state, local, and private water suppliers; and

WHEREAS, after returning to the private sector, Representative Zimmer practiced law at Dechert Price & Rhoads and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; and

WHEREAS, he also lectured at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs from 1997 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Governor Chris Christie appointed Representative Zimmer as the chair of the New Jersey Privatization Task Force, which was charged with developing plans to cut costs by privatizing certain State government operations; and

WHEREAS, Representative Zimmer passed away on December 31, 2025, at the age of 81, in Flemington, New Jersey, having lived on his family farm in nearby Sergeantsville since 1976; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marfy Goodspeed; their sons Carl and Benjamin and their spouses; three granddaughters; and his three sisters Barbara Zimmer, Ilene Hyman, and Susan Rubin; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the life, service, contributions, and legacy of Representative Zimmer, and to mark his passing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours from Friday, January 16, 2026, until sunset on January 17, 2026, in recognition and mourning of dedicated legislator and public servant, Dick Zimmer.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
14<sup>th</sup> day of January,  
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six,  
and of the Independence of  
the United States, the Two  
Hundred and Fiftieth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor