EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER TWENTY-THREE

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER

WHEREAS, the NASA Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 75 seconds after liftoff today; and

WHEREAS, the fate of the seven crew members has not officially been determined; however, it seems virtually impossible that anyone could have survived such a cataclysmic explosion; and

WHEREAS, today's accident was the first in-flight disaster in the 56 United States manned space missions; and

WHEREAS, we are deeply saddened and mourn the loss of the lives of all seven crew members; Commander Francis R. Scobee, age 46; Pilot Michael J. Smith, age 40; Judith Resnik, age 36; Ronald E. McNair, age 35; Ellison S. Onizuka, age 39; Gregory B. Jarvis, age 41; and schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, age 37.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware do hereby order and declare a

PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR THE SEVEN CREW MEMBERS OF THE NASA SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER

throughout the State of Delaware for a duration to coincide with the period of mourning declared by President Ronald W. Reagan
and I do further order all state flags within the State of Delaware to be flown at half-staff during this period of mourning in memory of the seven courageous crew members.

APPROVED this 28th day of January, 1986.

[Signature]
Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Secretary of State