

STATE OF DELAWARE



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER**

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

