

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 71

WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Alessandro Plutino graduated from Pitman High School in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino realized a life-long dream and joined the Army after graduating from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino was an Army Ranger and Rifle Team Leader in B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino was an honorable and courageous young man who loved his country and the military, serving six tours of duty; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino tragically lost his life while heroically and selflessly serving his country in Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino was a brave and dedicated soldier as well as a loving son, brother, and fiancé whose memory lives in the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Plutino's heroism, patriotism, and service to his country make it appropriate and fitting for the State of New Jersey to remember him and his family, to mark his passing, and to honor his memory;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, 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 on Friday, August 12, 2011, in recognition

and mourning of a brave and loyal American hero, United States Army Sergeant Alessandro Plutino.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
10th day of August,
Two Thousand and Eleven,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Sixth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor