



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2023-02

An Order Establishing the Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission

WHEREAS, Sharon Christa McAuliffe was born on September 2, 1948 and began her teaching career in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Christa McAuliffe taught history and English in Concord and Bow before taking a social studies teaching job at Concord High School in 1983 where her responsibilities included teaching American history, law, economics and a self-designed course titled "The American Woman"; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced the Teacher in Space Project, and Christa was selected out of over 11,000 applicants to become the first educator astronaut in space; and she was one of seven crew members of Space Shuttle Challenger mission STS-51-L; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1986, just 73 seconds after launch, tragically, the Challenger exploded and all seven crew members were lost; and

WHEREAS, Christa was never afforded the opportunity to teach the lessons she planned during that mission, her motivation to open minds, her emphasis on experiential learning and her belief that "I touch the future, I teach," continues to guide the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center's design of educational programs and exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Christa's legacy as a selfless and courageous New Hampshire educator and astronaut continues to inspire granite stater's to reach new heights and never stop exploring.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. There is hereby established the Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission to study, design, and oversee construction of a permanent memorial on state house grounds.
2. The Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission shall:

- a. Study the best location on the front facing portion of state house grounds to affix the permanent memorial.
 - b. Select an artist to design and upon the Commission's approval, craft the permanent memorial.
 - c. See that the memorial is permanently placed on the front facing portion of the New Hampshire State House on State House grounds.
 - d. Organize a formal unveiling on the permanent memorial on or before September 2, 2024.
 - e. Work with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to complete and dedicate the memorial.
 - f. Remain in existence upon the completion of the Christa McAuliffe memorial for the purpose of overseeing maintenance and approving any changes to the memorial.
3. The Christa McAuliffe State House Memorial Commission shall consist of the following:
- a. The then incumbent Governor or his or her designee;
 - b. Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
 - c. One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;
 - d. The executive director of the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, or his or her designee;
 - e. The commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources, or his or her designee;
 - f. The commissioner of the department of administrative services, or his or her designee; and
 - g. Three public members appointed by the incumbent Governor.
4. Each of the appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor for a term of three years, and until a successor has been appointed.
5. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.
6. The incumbent Governor or his or her designee shall serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and shall exercise overall supervision of the Commission.
7. Commission members shall perform their duties without compensation and shall not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending meeting of the Commission.
8. The first meeting shall occur on or before thirty days after the issuance of this Order and as frequently as the Chair determines thereafter.

9. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, allow for public comment, and be subject to the requirements of RSA Chapter 91-A.
10. The Commission shall continue pursuant to the terms of this Executive Order, and shall be subject to such modifications as may be required by subsequent duly issued Executive Order or as otherwise required by law.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 14th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-six.



GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE