



Governor Bill Richardson Orders Flags To Be Flown At Half-Staff To Honor Lovington Marine Killed In Iraq

For Immediate Release
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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today signed an Executive Order directing that flags in New Mexico be flown at half-staff Wednesday and Thursday, April 28 and 29, to honor Marine Lance Corporal Aaron Austin of Lovington. Corporal Austin was killed in action in Iraq on Monday.

“New Mexico has paid a heavy price in the war in Iraq,” said Governor Richardson, noting that Aaron Austin is the fourth New Mexican to be killed there since the war began. “We honor Corporal Austin for his service, for his bravery, and for the sacrifice he made to protect the freedom we all enjoy. I am truly proud of all of the brave New Mexico men and women in uniform serving at home and abroad.”

Governor Richardson last evening spoke by phone with Corporal Austin’s mother, De’on Miller, to offer his condolences, and express the gratitude of all New Mexicans for her son’s willing service to his country.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-022

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF AARON AUSTIN

WHEREAS, Aaron Austin, a native New Mexican, tragically lost his life on April 26, 2004 while serving his country in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Austin joined the U.S. Marines in 2001, served as a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marines, had been deployed to Iraq with the Second Battalion, First Marine Regiment, E Company weapons platoon and was stationed in Fallujah; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Austin was a 2001 graduate of Lovington High School and a resident of the City of Lovington; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Austin dedicated his life to serving his country and will be remembered for his bravery and patriotism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Wednesday, April 28, 2004, through Thursday, April 29, 2004, in mourning and in honor of Aaron Austin. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to the family of Aaron Austin as well as a heartfelt thank you for his military service.

ATTEST:
OFFICE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL, 2004

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
GREAT
SECRETARY OF STATE
MEXICO

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO