



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release

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Governor Bill Richardson lowers flags to half staff in honor of Representative Raymond M. Ruiz

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered all flags be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Representative Raymond M. Ruiz, who passed away over the weekend.

“Representative Raymond Ruiz was a fighter,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “While battling cancer, Representative Ruiz never relented from his courageous fight for road improvements, workers’ rights and better schools for Albuquerque’s West Side.”

Here is the text of the Executive Order the Governor signed today:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-025
FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND M.
RUIZ

WHEREAS, Raymond M. Ruiz, a Member of the New Mexico House of Representatives, passed away Sunday evening after a courageous battle with Malignant Mesothelioma Sarcoma; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ruiz was born on November 11, 1938 and is survived by his wife, Harriet, and his four children; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ruiz contracted his disease while working as an ironworker and a welder in Los Alamos in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, before and after contracting Malignant M.S., Representative Ruiz was a tireless advocate for New Mexico workers who contracted occupational illnesses such as Malignant M.S., urging the Federal Government to give stricken New Mexico workers the same compensation that workers in other states receive; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ruiz was also a Native New Mexican and a member of the labor movement who fought for workers in Los Alamos and in Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ruiz served two terms in the New Mexico House of Representatives and was a strong representative of citizens on Albuquerque's West Side.

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 Tuesday, May 11, 2004, through Wednesday, May 12, 2004, in mourning and in honor of Representative Raymond Ruiz. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to the family of Representative Raymond Ruiz as well as a heartfelt thank you for his public service.