



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
Nov. 30, 2004

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Governor Bill Richardson orders flags to half-staff in honor Of fallen New Mexico soldiers

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered flags to be flown at half-staff through Thursday, Dec. 2, to honor and mourn Capt. Todd Christmas and Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen.

Capt. Christmas, a native of Wagon Mound, lost his life during an Army helicopter crash in Texas. Capt. Christmas was stationed at Fort Hood after serving for a year in Iraq, where he earned the Bronze Star.

Spc. Christensen, an Albuquerque resident, tragically lost his life over the weekend while serving his country in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of these brave soldiers,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “We must not forget the sacrifices that New Mexico soldiers make on our behalf - whether they’re serving abroad or protecting our homeland.”

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-063

**FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING
OF JEREMY E. CHRISTENSEN AND TODD CHRISTMAS**

WHEREAS, Capt. Todd Christmas, who grew up in Wagon Mound, lost his life on Monday in Texas while heading to prepare equipment scheduled for use in Iraq;

WHEREAS, Capt. Christmas was commissioned in the Army in 2001, was stationed in Fort Hood and was part of the 4th Infantry Division;

WHEREAS, Army Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen, a New Mexican, tragically lost his life this past Saturday in Ad Duilayah, Iraq, while serving his country;

WHEREAS, Army Spc. Christensen entered the Army in December 2001, was stationed in Germany and was part of the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment;

WHEREAS, Army Capt. Todd Christmas and Army Spc. Christensen dedicated their lives to serving their country and will be remembered for their 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, December 1, 2004, through sundown on Thursday, December 2, 2004, in honor and mourning of Army Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen and Capt. Todd Christmas. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to the families of Army Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen and Capt. Todd Christmas as well as a heartfelt thank you for their military service.

ATTEST:
OFFICE THIS

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE
30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2004

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
GREAT
SECRETARY OF STATE
MEXICO

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW

GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON