



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
Oct. 14, 2004

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### **Governor Bill Richardson orders flags to half-staff In honor of Albuquerque SPC Christopher Andrew Merville**

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered flags to be flown at half-staff through Friday, Oct. 15, to honor and mourn SPC Christopher Andrew Merville. SPC Merville tragically lost his life this week while serving his country in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor Richardson called SPC Merville's mother, Patricia Merville, on Wednesday and extended his condolences.

"On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of SPC Christopher Andrew Merville," Governor Bill Richardson said. "SPC Merville gave his life fighting for his country. His sacrifice will not be forgotten."

#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-059**

#### **FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF CHRISTOPHER ANDREW MERVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, SPC Christopher Andrew Merville, a New Mexican, tragically lost his life this week while serving his country in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

**WHEREAS**, SPC Christopher Andrew Merville was 26 years old and a graduate of Eldorado High School;

**WHEREAS**, SPC Christopher Andrew Merville, a field artillery gunner with the United States Army, was fatally shot in combat in Baghdad, Iraq; and

**WHEREAS**, SPC Christopher Andrew Merville 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 on Thursday, October 14, 2004, until sundown on Friday, October 15, 2004, in honor and mourning of SPC Christopher Andrew Merville. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to the family of SPC Christopher Andrew Merville as well as a heartfelt thank you for his military service.

ATTEST:  
OFFICE

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
GREAT  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
MEXICO

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2004

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW

BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

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