



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
Oct. 25, 2004

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### **Governor Bill Richardson orders flags to half-staff in honor of Albuquerque emergency workers**

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered flags to be flown at half-staff through Tuesday, Oct. 26, to honor and mourn five emergency medical workers who died during a flight Sunday from California to New Mexico. Four members of the crew were from Albuquerque: Paramedic Donald Womble, Nurse Laura Womble, Capt. Karl Kolb, and first officer John Lamphere. Marco Villalobos, also a paramedic, was from El Paso.

“New Mexico lost true heroes from the aviation medical community,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “These emergency medical workers provided an essential service and saved lives around the world. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to their families and friends.”

#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-060**

#### **FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF FALLEN AIR AMBULANCE CREW**

**WHEREAS**, Early Sunday morning, an Albuquerque-based Med Flight Air Ambulance crew crashed in California while returning to New Mexico following a patient flight;

**WHEREAS**, The following five crew members were aboard the jet when it crashed: Captain Karl A. Kolb, First Officer K. John Lanphere, Nurse Laura A. Womble, Paramedic Donald L. Womble, and Paramedic Marco E. Villalobos;

**WHEREAS**, The entire crew died as a result of the crash;

**WHEREAS**, The members of this air ambulance crew dedicated their lives to saving others; and

**WHEREAS**, These crewmembers deserve to be honored for their bravery, sacrifice, and sense of duty in providing an essential service to the State of New Mexico.

**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 Monday, October 25, 2004, until sundown on Tuesday, October 26, 2004, in honor and mourning of the fallen air ambulance crew. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to their families and co-workers, as well as a heartfelt thank you for their noble service.

ATTEST:  
OFFICE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 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