



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For immediate release
April 6, 2005

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Governor Grants One-Half Day Leave Friday For Remembrance of Pope John Paul II

Santa Fe: Governor Bill Richardson today issued an Executive Order granting four hours of administrative leave Friday, April 8, 2005 to state employees for a time of personal remembrance of the life and contributions of Pope John Paul II.

“Pope John Paul II was a man of peace. For 26 years he remained the spiritual leader of more than 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. His message “Be not afraid,” inspired millions across the globe to stand up for their rights. As former Soviet President Gorbachev said the collapse of the “Iron Curtain” would have been impossible without the Pope. I hope that we take this time to remember and to celebrate, in whatever way we personally feel is appropriate, the legacy of Pope John Paul II,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

“Pope John Paul worked for reconciliation between the religions. The Vatican reestablished diplomatic relations with Israel in 1993. Over 80% of his trips were to the third world. World leaders from Palestine to Cuba praised his life on his passing and millions have come to Rome to pay their last respects. Pope John Paul will forever be remembered as a man of tremendous personal and spiritual conviction who truly inspired us all. He was truly a giant among men in the twentieth century,” Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson will attend the special Memorial Mass in honor of Pope John Paul II in Santa Fe at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Santa Fe at 5:15 p.m. this Thursday.

The Governor has ordered the flag at half-staff until Friday at sunset, the day of the Pope's funeral.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2005-018

RECOGNIZING A "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" FOR POPE JOHN PAUL II

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II passed away due to natural causes on April 2, 2005;

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II worked tirelessly to spread his message of peace, freedom, tolerance, and human rights to all corners of the world, and improved the lives of all the world's citizens;

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II inspired people living under tyrannical and dictatorial regimes, such as the former Soviet bloc, to "Be not afraid" to practice their beliefs;

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II's funeral will take place in Rome on Friday, April 8, 2005 and will be observed by millions of people in the Vatican and around the world, both Catholics and non-Catholics, who wish to remember the life and accomplishments of this world figure;

WHEREAS, Over 200 world leaders are expected to attend the Pope's funeral, demonstrating the high regard they held for the Pope's life and work; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that New Mexicans be given the opportunity to take part in this worldwide Day of Remembrance for Pope John Paul II, whose dedication to the well-being of all human beings will never be forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico herewith declare Friday, April 8, 2005, a Day of Remembrance of the extraordinary life of Pope John Paul II. To permit state employees to observe this day in an appropriate way of their choosing, I have authorized four hours of administrative leave for state employees on April 8, 2005, except for a core number of employees who are required to respond to emergencies and maintain necessary services to the public.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Governor rescinds it.

ATTEST:
THIS

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
GREAT
SECRETARY OF STATE
MEXICO

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

6th DAY OF APRIL, 2005

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

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