



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson orders flags to half-staff in mourning of Tsunami victims

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today ordered state flags to fly at half-staff for one week in mourning of the victims from the South Asian Tsunami disaster. The flags will fly at half-staff from Monday, January 3, 2005, through sundown Friday, January 7, 2005, in accordance with the President's proclamation lowering the federal flag to half-staff.

"This disaster has touched everyone around the world, including New Mexicans," Governor Bill Richardson said. "While we mourn the victims of this terrible tragedy, I encourage all New Mexicans, including state employees, to donate, if possible, to any of the disaster relief efforts that are crucial to helping survivors of the Tsunami."

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-001

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN MOURNING OF THE SOUTH ASIAN TSUNAMI DISASTER

WHEREAS, The world's strongest earthquake in 40 years erupted on Sunday, December 26, 2004, off the coast of Sumatra in the Indian Ocean, creating tsunamis that hit coastal communities in over 10 countries;

WHEREAS, The earthquake and tsunamis brought unprecedented destruction to the countries of Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives,

Somalia, and Tanzania, with confirmed deaths from the earthquake and tsunamis reaching nearly 140,000 and expected to rise as relief efforts continue;

WHEREAS, President George Bush has signed a proclamation lowering the nation's flags from Monday, January 3, 2005, through Friday, January 7, 2005, as a mark of respect for the victims of the disaster;

WHEREAS, Hundreds of New Mexicans know people who were directly affected by the earthquake and tsunamis in South Asia;

WHEREAS, New Mexicans have been quick to open their hearts to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis, generously pledging and collecting donations for aid groups and keeping victims in their prayers; and

WHEREAS, A disaster of this magnitude compels all of the world's citizens to join together in providing whatever relief is possible to its millions of victims.

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, January 3, 2005, through sundown Friday, January 7, 2005, in accordance with the President's proclamation, in mourning of the South Asian tsunami disaster. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to disaster's victims as well as a heartfelt thank you to the relief workers who continue to bring aid to the afflicted region.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2005

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO