



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
March 1, 2005

Contact: Marsha Catron
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson orders flags to half-staff in honor of Ambassador Frank Ortiz

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today ordered flags to be flown at half-staff through sundown on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 to honor and mourn Ambassador Frank Ortiz Jr.

“Ambassador Ortiz dedicated his entire life not only to his country but to the state of New Mexico,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “He is the embodiment of the term statesman; a dedicated public servant with vast knowledge of New Mexico history and culture. I extend heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends.”

Ambassador Frank Ortiz passed away early Sunday morning in Santa Fe. He was 78 years old.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-010

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF FRANK V. ORTIZ JR.

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr., a native of Santa Fe, passed away on Sunday, February 25, 2005;

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr., at age 17, left New Mexico for Washington to work as an aide in the U.S. Senate;

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr., at age 18 joined the U.S. Air Force and served in World War II;

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr., after returning from the war he enrolled in the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and graduated in 1951 and entered the American Foreign Service shortly thereafter. He served nearly 40 years, including as ambassador to Barbados, Grenada, Guatemala, Peru and Argentina until his retirement in 1990;

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr. after retiring in 1990 and returning to Santa Fe became involved in various civic organizations, including but not limited to the New Mexico History Museum and the National Hispanic Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, Frank V. Ortiz, Jr. will be missed by all those whose lives have been touched by him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Diane D. Denish, Acting Governor of the State of New Mexico pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor, does hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Tuesday, March 1, 2005, until sundown on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, in honor and mourning of Frank V. Ortiz. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to his family as well as a heartfelt thank you for his noble and courageous service.

ATTEST:
OFFICE THIS

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
GREAT SEAL
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

1st DAY OF MARCH, 2005

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

#30#