



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

For Immediate Release  
November 9, 2005

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## **Las Cruces Soldier Mario Reyes Killed in Iraq**

### *Governor Orders Flags at Half Staff*

SANTA FE - Pfc. Mario A. Reyes, 19, of Las Cruces was killed in action in Iraq Monday due to a suicide bomb attack, the Army announced Wednesday. Pfc. Reyes was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Reyes died in Baghdad when a car bomb detonated, the Army announced. Three other soldiers were also killed in the attack: 1st Lt. Justin S. Smith, 28, of Lansing, Mich.; Staff Sgt. Brian L. Freeman of Lucedale, Miss.; and Spc. Robert C. Pope II, of East Islip, N.Y. The 3rd Armored Cavalry has been serving in Iraq since the spring. Reyes joined the Army last year.

Reyes is the 16th service member with ties to New Mexico killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

In honor of Pfc. Mario A. Reyes' sacrifice, Governor Richardson ordered state flags be flown at half staff from Thursday, November 10, 2005, until sundown on Friday, November 11, 2005.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-055**

#### **FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF PFC. MARIO A. REYES**

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Army Pfc. Mario A. Reyes passed away on Monday, November 7, 2005, in southwest Baghdad while on foot patrol;

**WHEREAS**, Pfc. Mario A. Reyes, of Las Cruces, graduated from Mayfield High School this past May;

**WHEREAS**, Pfc. Mario A. Reyes was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson and was part of the Army's Task Force Baghdad in Iraq;

**WHEREAS**, Pfc. Mario A. Reyes is survived by his parents, Ernestina and Rufinio Reyes; and

**WHEREAS**, Pfc. Mario A. Reyes's patriotism, bravery and dedication to the State of New Mexico will always be remembered.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Governor Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Thursday, November 10, 2005, until sundown on Friday, November 11, 2005, in honor and mourning of Pfc. Mario A. Reyes. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to his family as well as a heartfelt thank you for his courageous service.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS  
10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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

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