



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

For Immediate Release
January 31, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein
(505) 476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Takes Action to Honor Coretta Scott King

(SANTA FE, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson today took executive action to honor Coretta Scott King, a central figure in the decades-long struggle for civil rights, who passed away Monday night at 78 years of age. Governor Richardson ordered all state flags be flown at half staff tomorrow. The Governor also released the following statement:

“America has lost a hero today. I join the rest of our country as we mourn the death of Coretta Scott King—a graceful woman who stood for American values of equality and prosperity for all. While this is a time of sadness, it is also a time to pause and be thankful for the contributions she made to our country. Thanks to Coretta Scott King and her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., America is a better place.”

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-003

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coretta Scott King died at her home in Atlanta, Georgia on the night of Monday, January 30, 2006, at the age of seventy eight years old;

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was born on April 27, 1927 on her grandfather's farm in Heiberger, Alabama, grew up harvesting cotton on her parents' farm, became the first African American student to major in education at Antioch College in Ohio, and later won a scholarship to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston;

WHEREAS, Mrs. King became a central figure in the decades-long civil rights struggle against segregation and racial discrimination, beginning in the early days of her marriage to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on June 19, 1953 and continuing in the years after Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968;

WHEREAS, Mrs. King was the driving force behind the 1982 establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change, a 23 acre national historic park honoring her husband's legacy that includes Dr. King's birth home, his tomb, a museum, gift shop, and archives;

WHEREAS, Mrs. King overcame many obstacles in her long and tireless effort to establish a national holiday in memory of Dr. King, culminating in successful legislation in 1983, making him only the second American, after George Washington, to be so honored; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a passionate advocate for justice and equality for African Americans, Mrs. King devoted herself to other noble causes, including women's rights nationally and internationally and the movement against South African apartheid in the 1980s.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, 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 on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, until sunset on such day, in accordance with the President's proclamation, in honor of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. The people of New Mexico send their thoughts and prayers to her family and a heartfelt thank you for her lifelong devotion to equality and dignity for all people.

ATTEST:
OFFICE THIS

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

31st DAY OF JANUARY, 2006

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
GREAT SEAL
SECRETARY OF STATE
MEXICO

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
OF THE STATE OF NEW

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

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