



For immediate release  
August 6, 2007

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
(505) 476-2217

## **Governor Bill Richardson Ordered Flags to Half Staff in Memory of Former Senate Majority Leader Michael Alarid**

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in memory of former State Senate Majority Leader Michael Alarid, who passed last week. As a reminder, flags shall fly at half staff Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> through sundown on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Senator Alarid's funeral service is on Tuesday.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-039**

#### **FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF SENATOR MICHAEL ALARID SR.**

**WHEREAS**, Senator Michael Alarid Sr., age 88, passed away on Wednesday morning, August 1, 2007;

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alarid will join his wife of 66 years, Stella, who passed away earlier this year and his daughter, Renee, and grand daughter, Denise, and his Mother, Eutemia, and Father, Victor;

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alarid was born on March 13, 1919, in Trinidad, Colorado. He came to New Mexico and married his wife Stella in 1941. He built a legacy that will long be remembered. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific, he returned to New Mexico and opened Mike's Food Store in the Barelas neighborhood which operated from 1952 to 1985;

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alarid served on numerous civic and professional board, including a number of non-profit organizations. He was an American Legion Post 72 commander, and State Commander, and active in the VFW and Elks;

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alarid served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, District 25, from 1964 to 1966. In 1966, he took the Senate seat for District 34, where he

served until 1972. In 1968, he ran for Lt. Governor, in 1972 he ran for United States Congress, and then in 1974 he ran for Mayor of Albuquerque. Although unsuccessful in those arenas he then returned to the New Mexico State Senate for District 12, and served an additional 22 years in the Legislature until 1992;

**WHEREAS**, during Senator Alarid's tenure in the Senate, he championed the founding of TV-I, the UNM medical school, the Unfair Trade Practices Act, the Public Schools Finance Act, and advocated for early retirement for police and firefighters. He was Senate Democratic Leader/Majority Floor Leader from 1981-1988. His reputation for a strong work ethic, extensive knowledge, eloquence, and integrity was legendary at the State Round House; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alarid is survived by his sister, Vangie, of Trinidad; his children, Michael and his wife, Barbara, Elizabeth and her husband Stephen, Estella, Luciana, and Celena; his grandchildren, Jason and his wife, Chevonne, Michelle, their mother, Susan, Vanessa, Roberto, Renee, Tara, and Michael III; and his great grandchildren, Renee, Isaiah, Elizabeth, Gabriela, Angelica and Valdejan.

**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 by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Monday, August 6, 2007, until sundown on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, in honor and mourning of Senator Alarid. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to his family as well as a heartfelt thank you for his many years of public service.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2007

MARY HERRERA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
MEXICO

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

DIANE D. DENISH  
ACTING GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

#30#