



For Immediate Release
August 23, 2007

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Governor Richardson Lowers Flags to Half Staff in Honor of Army Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Johnson

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson ordered flags to fly at half-staff in honor of United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Johnson, 31, who lost his life while serving his country in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, on Tuesday, August 14, 2007.

Chief Warrant Officer Johnson was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 27, 1975. He grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Tri-Unity Christian School in Wyoming, Michigan. Johnson's parents moved to Gallup, New Mexico after his graduation. He joined the Army in 1994 and went on to become a Green Beret and a member of Task Force Dragon.

Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Johnson was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Chief Warrant Officer Johnson is survived by his wife, Vivian Johnson, their children, Dylan, Jonathan and Victoria; his parents, Charles and Mary Johnson; grandmother, Marion Johnson, grandmother, Bernice Plersma, and sisters, Laura Jo Evens and Dawn Vink.

In honor of Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Johnson's sacrifice, Governor Richardson signed an Executive Order directing that state flags be flown at half-staff from Friday, August 24, 2007, until sundown on Saturday, August 25, 2007.

The text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-042

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

WHEREAS, United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Johnson, age 31, tragically lost his life while serving in Al Taqaddum, Iraq on Tuesday, August 14, 2007;

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Johnson was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 27, 1975. He grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Tri-Unity Christian School before his parents moved to Gallup, New Mexico. He joined the Army in 1994 and went on to become a Green Beret and a member of Task Force Dragon;

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Johnson was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska;

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Johnson is survived by his parents, Charles and Mary Johnson, his wife, Vivian Johnson, children, Dylan, Jonathan and Victoria, grandmother, Marion Johnson, grandmother, Bernice Plersma, and sisters, Laura Jo Evens and Dawn Vink; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Johnson's patriotism, bravery, and dedication to the nation 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 Friday, August 24, 2007, until sundown on Saturday, August 25, 2007, in honor and mourning of United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Johnson. 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
21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2007

MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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

BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO