



For Immediate Release
December 7, 2007

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Governor Bill Richardson Lowers Flags In Memory of Robert O. Anderson

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson has ordered flags to fly at half-staff in memory of Robert O. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a well known petroleum executive, environmentalist, diplomat and rancher. Flags shall fly at half staff beginning on Monday, December 10th until sundown on Tuesday, December 11th.

Robert Anderson was born in Chicago on April 13, 1917. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1939 and went on to work for the American Mineral Spirits Company. In 1947, Anderson moved to Artesia, New Mexico, where his career in the oil industry flourished. Over the years, Anderson bought and expanded several refineries in the southeastern part of the state. While doing so, he earned an impeccable reputation both domestically and internationally as an oil executive, rancher, diplomat and environmentalist.

In honor of Robert O. Anderson, Governor Richardson signed an Executive Order directing that flags be flown at half-staff from Monday, December 10, 2007 through sundown on Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

This follows the Governor's statement on December 3, 2007. Here is a link to the full press release: <http://www.governor.state.nm.us/press/2007/press-dec07.php>

The text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-058

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF AND MOURNING OF ROBERT O. ANDERSON

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson passed away on Sunday, December 2, 2007, in Roswell, New Mexico at age 90;

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson was born on April 13, 1917, to Hugo and Hilda Nelson Anderson in Chicago, Illinois. He was educated at the University of Chicago's

Laboratory Elementary and High schools and graduated from the University of Chicago in 1939;

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson went on to work for the oil company, American Mineral Spirits Company in Chicago. He then purchased a small oil refinery in Artesia, New Mexico. For the next fifteen years, he bought and expanded several refineries in New Mexico. He retired in 1986 from the Atlantic Richfield Company after serving as CEO for 17 years and Chairman of the Board for 21 years. He went on to form the Hondo Oil & Gas Company in Roswell, where he served as CEO until 1994. Robert O. Anderson earned an impeccable reputation on domestically and internationally as a renowned petroleum executive, rancher, environmentalist, diplomat, and civic leader who had serviced the oil and gas industry, academia, and the community in various capacities over the years;

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson was honored by the governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and Native American Tribes. He served on a number of boards including Chase Manhattan Bank, First National Bank of Chicago, the National Petroleum Council, Pan American Airlines, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Mr. Anderson founded the International Institute for Environment and Development in London. He was also a lifetime trustee of the California Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago.

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson received numerous honors and prestigious awards during this lifetime including but not limited to being the first recipient of the Charles A. Lindbergh Award for Significant Achievement and also the first to receive the Dwight D. Eisenhower Medal of Excellence. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Petroleum Engineering from New Mexico Tech. The Robert O. Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico is named in his honor.

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson is survived by his wife of 68 years, Barbara Herrick Phelps Anderson, sons, Phelps Anderson and Robert Bruce Anderson, daughters Katherine Anderson, Maria Anderson, Beverley Cane, Barbara Kryder, and Julia Smith. He is also survived by twenty grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Robert O. Anderson's patriotism 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 Monday, December 10, 2007, until sundown on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, in honor and mourning of Robert O. Anderson. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to his family as well as a heartfelt thank you for his dedicated service to the people of New Mexico.

**ATTEST:
THIS**

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

7TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 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**

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