



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For Immediate Release
December 17, 2007

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Governor Richardson Lowers Flags in Honor of State Police Officer Susan Kuchma

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson has directed Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish to lower the flags to half staff in honor of New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Kuchma, 43, who was killed on December 13th.

“The brave men and women who serve and protect the citizens of New Mexico put their lives on the line each and everyday,” said Governor Richardson. “It is a sincere tragedy when one of our officers is killed. On behalf of the people of New Mexico, Barbara and I wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to Officer Susan Kuchma’s family.”

Officer Kuchma was a native of Santa Fe and a five year veteran of the New Mexico State Police, based in Las Cruces. She was known for her kindness, dedication to the police department and for her love of animals.

Susan is survived by her husband, Patrick Kuchma; her father, Ronald Quintana; mother, Sylvia Quintana; step-mother, Evelyn Quintana; her son, Michael Quintana; and brothers, Ron, Kenneth, and Timothy Quintana.

In honor of Officer Susan Kuchma, Lt. Governor Denish signed an Executive Order directing flags be flown at half-staff from Tuesday, December 18, 2007 through sundown on Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

Full text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-059

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE OFFICER SUSAN DIANE KUCHMA

WHEREAS, New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Kuchma, age 43, tragically lost her life on Thursday, December 13, 2007 in Las Cruces, New Mexico;

WHEREAS, New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Kuchma was born on March 19, 1964 to Ronald E. Quintana and Sylvia Quintana, in Santa Fe. She graduated from Santa Fe High School and graduated from the State Police Academy in December of 2002;

WHEREAS, New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Kuchma is survived by her father, Ronald E. Quintana, mother, Sylvia D. Quintana, husband, Patrick Kuchma, her son, Justin Michael Quintana; and brothers, Ron, Kenneth, and Timothy Quintana; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Kuchma's patriotism, bravery and dedication to the State of New Mexico will always be remembered.

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 Tuesday, December 18, 2007, until sundown on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, in honor and mourning of New Mexico State Police Officer Susan Diane Kuchma. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to her family as well as a heartfelt thank you for her years of public service.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007

MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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

DIANE D. DENISH
ACTING GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

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