



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
Feb. 28, 2007

Contact: Jon Goldstein  
505-476-2248

## **Governor Richardson Lowers Flags to Half Staff in Honor of Sergeant Matthew Apuan of Las Cruces**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today ordered flags to fly at half-staff in honor of United States Army Sergeant Matthew Apuan, 27, who lost his life while serving his country in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

Sergeant Apuan graduated from Las Cruces Mayfield High School in 1998 and joined the Army in March 2001. He was on his second tour in Iraq and had fought in Najaf and Fallujah.

Sgt. Apuan was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas. He is survived by his grandfather, Charles Joseph Apuan, mother, Sandra Apuan, father, Charles Apuan, stepmother, Martha Apuan and sister, Aimee Apuan.

In honor of Sgt. Apuan's sacrifice, Governor Richardson signed an Executive Order directing that state flags be flown at half-staff from tomorrow Thursday, March 1, 2007, until sundown on Friday, March 2, 2007.

The text of the Executive Order follows:

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-008**

### **FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR AND MOURNING OF SERGEANT MATTHEW APUAN**

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Sergeant Matthew Apuan, age 27, tragically lost his life while serving his country in Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, February 18, 2007;

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Apuan graduated from Las Cruces Mayfield High School in 1998 and joined the Army in March 2001. He was on his second tour in Iraq and had fought in Najaf and Fallujah;

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Apuan was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas;

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Apuan is survived by his grandfather, Charles Joseph Apuan, mother, Sandra Apuan, father, Charles Apuan, stepmother, Martha Apuan and sister, Aimee Apuan; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Apuan's patriotism, bravery 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 Thursday, March 1, 2007, until sundown on Friday, March 2, 2007, in honor and mourning of United States Army Sergeant Matthew Apuan. 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:  
OFFICE THIS

MARY HERRERA  
GREAT SEAL  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
MEXICO

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE

22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE  
OF THE STATE OF NEW

BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

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