



For Immediate Release
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Governor Richardson Lowers Flags in Honor of State Police Lieutenant Michael Avilucea

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson has directed flags be lowered to half staff in honor of New Mexico State Police Lieutenant Michael Avilucea, 51, who was killed on May 30th. Flags shall be flown at half staff from Wednesday, June 4th through Thursday, June 5th.

“My sympathies as well as the condolences of the First Lady and every New Mexican go out to the family of State Police Lt. Michael Avilucea who was killed in the line of duty yesterday,” said Governor Richardson. “It is a sincere tragedy when one of our law enforcement officers is killed.”

Lt. Michael Avilucea was a 26 year veteran of the New Mexico State Police. The Las Cruces resident was commander of the State Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal team and Assistant Commander of the Alamogordo State Police District.

Lt. Avilucea is survived by a son, Lucas Avilucea; his parents Procopio and Clorinda Avilucea of Las Cruces; two brothers, Fidel and Robert Avilucea; and five sisters, Lila and Gloria Avilucea, Patsy Martin, Ida Fingado, and Virginia Lattion.

Michael was an active member of the National Rifle Association, New Mexico Cattlemen’s Association, New Mexico State Police Association, American Quarter Horse Association, the Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators and the Bomb Commanders Advisory Group.

In honor of Lt. Michael Avilucea, flags shall be flown at half-staff from Wednesday, June 4, 2008 through sundown on Thursday, June 5, 2008.

Full text of the Executive Order follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2008-026

FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF STAFF IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE LIEUTENANT MICHAEL AVILUCEA

WHEREAS, NMSP Lieutenant Michael Avilucea, age 51, tragically lost his life in the line of duty on Friday, May 30, 2008 in Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico;

WHEREAS, NMSP Lieutenant Michael Avilucea was a 26 year veteran of the New Mexico State Police. He was the Commander of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team and Assistant Commander of the Alamogordo District. He was also an active member of the New Mexico State Police Association, the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, and the Bomb Commanders Advisory Group;

WHEREAS, NMSP Lieutenant Michael Avilucea is survived by his son, Lucas Avilucea, parents, Procopio and Clorinda Avilucea, brothers Fidel and Robert Avilucea and sisters Lila Avilucea, Gloria Avilucea, Patsy Martin, Ida Fingado, and Virginia Lattion; and

WHEREAS, NMSP Lieutenant Michael Avilucea'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 Wednesday, June 4, 2008, until sundown on Thursday, June 5, 2008, in honor and mourning of NMSP Lieutenant Michael Avilucea. 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
3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2008**

**MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

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

**BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO**