



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nora Meyers Sackett
Press Secretary, Office of the Governor
nora.sackett@state.nm.us
(505) 690-7313

July 18, 2022

Flags ordered to half-staff in mourning for Bernalillo County first responders

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Monday ordered all flags in the state of New Mexico to half-staff in mourning for four Bernalillo County first responders killed in a Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office helicopter crash on Saturday.

Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, and Deputy Michael Levinson, all of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, and Bernalillo County Fire Department **Rescue Specialist Matthew King** were killed in a helicopter crash in the line of duty on July 16 while assisting with firefighting efforts in San Miguel County.

The executive order directing all flags in New Mexico to half-staff from Monday, July 18, through sundown Friday, July 22, is attached to this release.

The governor issued the following statement:

“I am heartbroken by the tragic loss of four New Mexicans while in the line of duty. These were four dedicated public servants who were doing what New Mexico's first responders do day in and day out: working tirelessly to serve and protect their fellow New Mexicans. On behalf of the people of New Mexico, I extend my deepest gratitude to these four brave men, and my deepest sympathy to their families, friends and colleagues.

“As we await additional details from the investigation, my office has offered every available support and assistance to the sheriff's office and the county. State resources are fully available to assist the ongoing investigation.”

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State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-110

ORDERING FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF IN MEMORY OF VICTIMS OF BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HELICOPTER CRASH

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, a Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office helicopter was returning to Bernalillo after assisting with firefighting efforts in northern New Mexico when it unexpectedly crashed. Tragically, the crash killed all those on board: Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, and Deputy Michael Levison of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, as well as Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department. Each of those lost will leave a devastating hole in the lives of countless family members, friends, and colleagues at the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office and Fire Department. Their bravery and public dedication will not be forgotten.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** that all New Mexico and United States flags be flown at half-staff beginning July 18, 2022, and lasting through sundown of July 22, 2022. This action will serve to commemorate the lives of Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, Deputy Michael Levison and Rescue Specialist Matthew King, and to mourn their loss.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 18TH DAY OF JULY 2022

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

Michelle Lujan Grisham
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

