

Monday, June 26, 2006

Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Ukiah Soldier

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Jason Buzzard of Ukiah: "Maria and I join all Californians in mourning the tragic loss of Sgt. Buzzard. Risking his life to serve his country was a duty that Jason bravely undertook. He died with honor and we will remember his service with gratitude and admiration." Buzzard, 31, died June 21 as a result of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HEMTT cargo truck during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. In honor of Sgt. Buzzard, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by Harrison C. at 10:56

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Christopher Leon of Lancaster:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Christopher Leon of Lancaster: "Today we honor Cpl. Leon for his devotion to serving our country. Maria and I join all Californians in offering our deepest sympathies to Christopher's loved ones. We must never forget the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of our armed forces to ensure our freedoms." Leon, 20, died June 20 as a result of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan. In honor of Cpl. Leon, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by Harrison C. at 10:56

Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Deaths of Three Camp Pendleton Marines

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Benjamin Williams of Orange, TX, Pfc. Christopher White of Southport, NC and Lance Cpl. Brandon Webb of Swartz Creek, MI: "Maria and I are deeply saddened by the news of Staff Sgt. Williams, Pfc. White and Lance Cpl. Webb's death. These three Marines willingly put their lives on the line to serve our country. We will keep Benjamin, Christopher and Brandon's families in our thoughts and prayers. Their brave service is an example of the determination and courage that makes our nation strong." Williams, 30, White, 23, and Webb, 20, died June 20 of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. They were all assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. In honor of Staff Sgt. Williams, Pfc. White and Lance Cpl. Webb, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by Harrison C. at 10:55

Friday, June 23, 2006

GOVERNOR PAWLENTY ORDERS U.S. AND STATE FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF IN HONOR OF SERGEANT BRENT KOCH

Governor Tim Pawlenty today ordered that the United States flag and the State of Minnesota flag be flown at half-staff at the State Capitol from sunrise until sunset on Monday, June 26, 2006, in honor and remembrance of Sergeant Brent William Koch, who was killed in action in Iraq on June 16, 2006. Funeral services for Sergeant Koch will be held in Morgan, Minnesota on Monday morning. The following is the text of the Governor's official proclamation: WHEREAS: Sergeant Brent William Koch was born on October 7, 1983, in St. James, Minnesota, to Kevin Koch and Valerie (Loft) Koch; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch graduated from Cedar Mountain High School in 2002, and furthered his education at Southwest Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota, graduating in June, 2005. He joined the Minnesota National Guard in February, 2003; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch was a devoted soldier who loved serving his country and did so with great pride; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch was assigned to Minnesota Army National Guard's Company E, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Combined Arms Battalion, in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. His unit was deployed to Iraq in March, 2006, as a part of the 1st of the 34 Brigade Combat Team; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch died a hero while protecting his country and fighting for freedom on Friday, June 16, 2006, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch is preceded in death by his great-grandparents and two cousins, Tylor and Nicholas Loft; and WHEREAS: Sergeant Koch is survived by his father, Kevin Koch; his mother, Valerie Koch; step-sister, Lindsay Gaasch; grandparents, Lowell and RoseAdelle Koch, and William and Barbara Loft; aunts and uncles, Brian Koch, Terry and Lori Koch, Mark and Becky Sandmeyer, Angela Loft, and William Loft; great-grandmother, Erma Fritz; special friends, Ed Gaasch and Deb Holmes; and many other friends and family who loved him dearly and will miss him greatly; and WHEREAS: Visitation for Sergeant Koch will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2006, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Nelson-Martin Funeral Service in Redwood Falls, Minnesota; and WHEREAS: A funeral with full military honors will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at Cedar Mountain High School in Morgan, Minnesota. Burial will follow at Elm Creek Cemetery; and WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota thanks the family of Sergeant Koch for his dedicated service to the people of this country and we extend our thoughts and prayers to his family. NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all U.S. and Minnesota flags be flown at half-staff at the Capitol Complex, including state buildings, monuments and grounds in proximity to and including the Minnesota State Capitol, from sunrise until sunset, on Monday, June 26, 2006, in honor and remembrance of Sergeant Brent William Koch.

Posted by Harrison C. at 09:25

Monday, June 19, 2006

Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Hemet Marine: Cpl. Michael Estrella

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Michael Estrella of Hemet, CA: "With respect and gratitude, Maria and I express our sympathies to the family and friends of Cpl. Estrella. As a Marine, Michael courageously fulfilled his duty to service and responsibility. We owe a debt of gratitude to Michael, his family and all other service personnel for the sacrifices they make to ensure our freedom." Estrella, 20, died June 14 of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. In honor of Cpl. Estrella, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by Harrison C. at 11:53

Friday, June 16, 2006

GOVERNOR ORDERS FLAGS FLOWN HALF-STAFF AT ADOT BUILDINGS

Order in Remembrance of Fallen ADOT Employee PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today ordered U.S. and Arizona state flags at all Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) buildings flown at half-staff, in memory of ADOT employee, Nick Leonet. Leonet was killed Wednesday, June 14, while working on State Route 64 approximately 11 miles north of Williams, Ariz. He gave 14 years of service to the Department. Flags will be flown half-staff at all ADOT buildings on Monday, June 19, 2006, the day of Leonet's funeral.

Posted by Harrison C. at 12:24

Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Sailor: Hospitalman Zachary Alday

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Hospitalman Zachary Alday of Donalsonville, GA: "Hospitalman Alday fulfilled a tremendous service to our nation and its citizens. Zachary's commitment to duty and loyalty to our country reflects his noble character. During this painful time, Maria and I send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends." Alday, 22, died June 9 of injuries sustained when the vehicle he was riding in struck a land mine. His unit was conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 7th Regimental Combat Team, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. In honor of Hospitalman Alday, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by Harrison C. at 11:57

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Flags to be Flown Half-Staff Friday, Monday for Servicemen Killed in Iraq

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today ordered that United States flags throughout the state of Michigan and on Michigan waters be lowered in honor of Michigan servicemen who lost their lives while on active duty in Iraq. Flags will be lowered: Friday, June 9, 2006, to honor Army Specialist Brock L. Bucklin of Caledonia. Army Specialist Bucklin, 28, died May 31 from a non-combat related cause while serving in Balad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. Monday, June 12, 2006, to honor Army Corporal Alexander J. Kolasa of White Lake. Army Corporal Kolasa, 22, died May 31 from a non-combat related cause while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 704th Main Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Flags should return to full-staff on Saturday, June 10, and again on Tuesday, June 13. Under Section 7 of Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the United States Code, 4 USC 7, Governor Granholm, in December 2003, issued a proclamation requiring United States flags to be lowered to half-staff throughout the state of Michigan and half-mast on Michigan waters to honor Michigan servicemen and servicewomen killed in the line of duty. When flown at half-staff or half-mast, the United States flag should be hoisted first to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff or half-mast position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. When a member of the armed services from Michigan is killed in action, the Governor will issue a press release with information about the individual(s) and the day that has been designated for flags to be lowered in his or her honor. This information will also be posted on Governor Granholm's web site at www.michigan.gov/gov in the section titled 'Spotlight'.

Posted by Harrison C. at 11:43