Local News



Missouri Flags Lowered in Honor of Eric Summers

DECEMBER 12TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

Missouri Flags Lowered in Honor of Eric Summers

Submitted by Dee Loflin, SMT Manager/Editor

State of Missouri - By order of the Governor, all flags of the United States and the flag of Missouri at all State and government offices will be flown at half-staff, on Saturday, December 14, 2013, from sunrise until sunset in honor of Staff Sergeant Eric William Summers who died while serving his country at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California.

Also, by order of the Governor, all flags at all State and government offices will be flown at half-staff, in Butler County only, from sunrise Sunday, December 15, 2013, until sunset on Friday, December 20, 2013, in memory of Staff Sergeant Eric William Summers.

Your office is responsible for distributing this information throughout your department for compliance with this order on December 14, 2013.

Summers, age 32, of Poplar Bluff, was a United States Marine who died on Nov. 13 while serving his country at Camp Pendleton, Calif. In addition, Nixon has ordered that the U.S. and Missouri flags at all state buildings in Butler County be flown at half-staff from Dec. 15 to Dec. 20.

"We honor the bravery and dedication of Marine Staff Sergeant Summers, and I ask all Missourians to remember his sacrifice when they see the lowered flags," Nixon said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

"Summers, who served 13 with the Marines, was assigned to the 3rd Marine Air Wing, Marine Wing Support Group 37, Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. His awards and decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, with Combat Distinguishing Device in lieu of third award; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and the Good Conduct Medal in lieu of third award."

"Four bomb-removal technicians killed at Camp Pendleton during a training exercise, including Summers, two Marines from California, and one from Louisiana. The two Californians killed were 28-year-old Staff Sgt. Mathew R. Marsh of Long Beach, who had been a Marine since 2003, and 27-year-old Sgt. Miguel Ortiz of Vista, a Marine since 2006. Also killed was 31-year-old Gunnery Sgt. J. Mullins of Bayou L'Ourse, La., an 11-year Marine Corps veteran. A Navy Hospital Corpsman and two Marines near the accident suffered minor injuries in the explosion."

"Summers is being returned to Southwest Missouri tonight, and his community has turned out to honor his return so that he may be laid to rest. More than 2,300 American flags lined the streets of Poplar Bluff by Wednesday night. Local news agencies report that hundreds of volunteers also put American flags into the ground from where the services will take place to where summers will be buried."

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 12TH 2013 BY DEE LOFLIN

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