

From: Kunin, Lisa [Lisa.Kunin@vermont.gov]
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To: Kunin, Lisa
Subject: FW: State Actions to Honor Fallen Military & Police

State Action to Honor Fallen Military

When an active duty military or National Guard member is killed in action, the Department of Defense reports the death to the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) in Ft. Drum and then to the CAO at state National Guard Headquarters.

A CAO and Chaplain are detailed to report to the family/next of kin. At this point the death is still not public information. National Guard Headquarters advises the Governor's Chief of Staff, also reminding the Governor's office that the death is still not public information.

At this time, the Governor may make a personal phone call to the family, or visit as appropriate. The CAO working with the family will advise when the time is right for the call, since each family may react differently to the news.

The Governor is generally invited to the funeral services and presents the Patriot's Medal at that time to the family. The Governor is generally not asked to speak at the funeral.

Instructions for the presentation of the Patriot's Medal are listed below. Please note that there can be some flexibility in the presentation of the medal. Some families might prefer to simply have a private service and have the medals mailed. They have also been presented at the annual State Service Medal/Distinguished Service Medal presentation.

Instructions for Handling Medals and Certificates for the Family of Deceased Service Member

Medals for Widow:

The Patriot's Medal

Certificate and medal in one case; certificate must be signed by Governor

The State Distinguished Service Medal (Silver)

With accompanying certificate that must be signed by the Governor

The State Veterans Medal (Bronze)

With accompanying certificate that must be signed by the Governor

Medals for Parents:

The State Distinguished Service Medal (Silver)

With accompanying certificate that must be signed by the Governor

The State Veterans Medal (Bronze)

With accompanying certificate that must be signed by the Governor

Notes:

- Traditionally only one Patriot's Medal is issued to the family.
- Medals to parents are optional
 - If Governor feels it is awkward to give parents two medals but not the Patriot's Medal, he can just present medals to the widow

Requests that the state flag be lowered in response to the death of a soldier

State protocol adopted to honor a deceased soldier is to lower the flag to half staff at sunrise on the day of the funeral and to return the flag to full staff after three days at half staff.