

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacksonville, IL – July 20, 2010....2:00 P.M.

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE FLYING FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF FOR FALLEN SOLDIER, SGT. MATTHEW W. WEIKERT

Jacksonville Mayor Andy Ezard has asked that flags at city buildings be flown at half-staff this week to honor Sgt. Matthew Weikert, who died July 17th in Afghanistan while serving his country. Flags will remain at half-staff until after Sgt. Weikert's funeral, which has not been announced at the time of this press release.

Mayor Ezard encourages all local businesses and residents who display flags on their properties to please consider flying their flags at half-staff in honor and in memory of Sgt. Matthew Weikert.

Mayor Ezard stated, "The City of Jacksonville is saddened to hear of the death of Sgt. Matthew Weikert, a proud and dedicated soldier, and a young man who gave his life for our country. The entire city is very proud of all our local heroes in the armed forces fighting for our country's freedom. The loss of any serviceman or woman is tragic and it brings it home and touches us more deeply when the soldier is from our city. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to Sgt. Matthew Weikert's family."