

**To:** Governor Charlie Baker

**From:** The Department of Massachusetts American Legion Family

**RE:** New Half Staff Flag Order Request

April 17, 2020

The American Legion Family which includes the American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Riders Department of Massachusetts is requesting Governor Charlie Baker issue a **NEW Half Staff Flag Order** effective immediately and remaining in effect for an **indefinite period - a date to be determined later, by the Governor**, to honor the lives lost at all Massachusetts Health Care and Veterans Facilities. These deceased Veterans will have no military honors provided due to the ban on funerals at Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery's as well as restrictions in private funerals.

Lowering flags State-wide to honor these most deserving Veterans, who are continuing to die daily at these Statewide Facilities, without family present, would be an important symbol to all, that their lives are being honored by the grateful citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Flags at half staff will serve as a visual reminder to all of the sacrifices made by our oldest and dearest Veterans, our First Responders, and Health Care Workers who have been lost during the Covid-19 tragedy.

Thank You

Yours in Patriotism,

Jodie Pajak American Legion, Commander

Coral May Grout American Legion Auxiliary, President

Ernie Laberge Sons of The American Legion, Commander

Louis Brault American Legion Riders, State Chairman

The American Legion Family  
Department of Massachusetts

