

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 30, 2008**

GOVERNOR PATERSON DIRECTS FLAGS TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF

Governor David A. Paterson has directed that flags on State government buildings across New York be flown at half-staff on Monday, January 5, 2009 in honor of New York State native and U.S. Army Reserve Major John P. Pryor, M.D., who died December 25, 2008, in Mosul, Iraq.

Major Pryor, a member of the 1st Medical Detachment, Forward Surgical Team, based in Fort Totten, New York, died from wounds suffered while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"On behalf of all New Yorkers, I wish to extend our condolences to the family, friends and fellow soldiers of Major Pryor," said Governor Paterson. "Major Pryor committed himself to a life of service, healing Americans here in the hospital and then volunteering that skill on the battlefield for America's soldiers. He courageously placed his life on the line in order to serve his country and protect the rights and freedoms of this nation, for which we are eternally grateful. Major Pryor's service and sacrifice to the United States of America will never be forgotten."

Governor Paterson has directed the flags on all State buildings to be lowered to half-staff in honor and tribute to our State's soldiers who are killed in action.