



JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

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Kasich Orders Flags in Mahoning County & at Statehouse to be Flown at Half-Staff in Honor of Slain Youngstown State Student

COLUMBUS – Today Gov. John R. Kasich ordered that flags at state facilities in Mahoning County and at the Statehouse be flown at half-staff on Saturday in honor of the life of Youngstown State University student Jamail E. Johnson, who was slain early Sunday morning in Youngstown in a shooting at an off-campus residence. Johnson’s funeral is on Saturday.

Kasich issued the following statement:

“It is a loss for all of Ohio when a young person is struck down at the beginning of their life’s journey. This was a young man who was a leader among his peers and who sought to put himself in a position to take advantage of new opportunities. He and every other young person like him are Ohio’s promise for a better future, and we must do all we can to cherish them, to protect them, and to create an Ohio where they can pursue their dreams just as we have been able to pursue ours.

“I met with Jamail’s mother and talked to her on the phone again on Wednesday and I’ve been moved by the strength and dignity with which she’s carrying herself during the worst time of her life. She’s an inspiration to her family and community and my prayers go out to her. I lost my parents to a drunk driver and I feel for anyone who loses a loved one in a sudden tragedy. It changes your life dramatically, but it can be a wake-up call if we have the courage to respond to God’s grace and love.

“Jamail’s death is more than a tragedy; it is a wake-up call. We cannot let our young people be overtaken by violence and despair. We cannot tolerate an atmosphere in our communities that fosters violence or hopelessness. Ohio and the Mahoning Valley have gone through some tough times lately, but we can’t let our challenges define us, we must make sure our triumph is what defines us. I urge every parent tonight to thank God for their children, to pray for those who have lost children, and to think long and hard about what they can do to help make their communities and our state a place where every Ohioan—especially our young people—can fulfill their God-given promise.”

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