OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

TO:　　　　All State Agencies

FROM:　　　Governor Kay Ivey　　　*Kay Ivey*

DATE:　　　Wednesday, March 25, 2026

RE:　　　　Flags Lowered for Fallen Members of 99th Air Refueling Squadron,
　　　　　　117th Air Refueling Wing, Sumpter Smith Joint Air National Guard Base

I authorize the lowering of flags at the Capitol Complex in Montgomery and statewide on **Monday, March 30, 2026**, in honor of U.S. military service members stationed in Alabama, who lost their lives on March 12, 2026, during an accident involving their KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft while operating in support of Operation Epic Fury. These fallen military personnel served in the 99th Air Refueling Squadron of the 117th Air Refueling Wing located at Sumpter Smith Joint Air National Guard Base in Birmingham.

Major John A. "Alex" Klinner, 33, a resident of Trussville, Alabama and graduate of Auburn University, served as chief of squadron standardization and evaluations. An eight-year Air Force veteran, Maj. Klinner's awards include the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Aerial Achievement Medal, and the Air and Space Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster. He is survived by his wife, Libby, and their three young children.

Major Ariana G. Savino, 31, served as chief of current operations. A native of Washington state, Maj. Savino was a graduate of Central Washington University and Air Force ROTC, with over 300 combat hours. Her awards include the Air Medal and Air Space Commendation Medal.

Technical Sergeant Ashley B. Pruitt, 34, served as an assistant flight chief of operations. A native of Kentucky, Tech Sgt. Pruitt received two associate's degrees from the Community College of the Air Force and had over 900 combat flight hours. She is survived by her husband, Gregory, a young daughter and stepson.

To honor these brave Airmen who gave their lives in service to our country, I am directing all flags to be lowered from sunrise until sunset on **Monday, March 30, 2026**, the day of funeral services for Alabama native **Major John A. Klinner.**

KI/ml