

September 30, 2016

In rare tribute, Obama orders flags flown at half-staff for Peres

President Obama announced he was heading to Jerusalem to attend Shimon Peres' funeral and ordered flags flown at half-staff, a rare honor for foreign leaders. According to JTA, in a proclamation late Wednesday, Obama said he ordered flags to fly at "half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions" through sunset Sept. 30. "I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations," the proclamation said. A flag flown at half-staff for a foreign leader is rare; Obama ordered the honor after the death of Nelson Mandela, who led South Africa out of Apartheid, in 2013. Prior to that, the last such foreign leader honored was Pope John Paul II, whom President George W. Bush honored in 2005.