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Flags in N.J. to fly at half-staff to honor State Police recruit who died during training

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Flags in New Jersey will fly at half-staff from Friday through Sunday to honor a State Police recruit who died during training, Gov. Phil Murphy announced Friday.

Lucas C. Homeijer, 27, of Boonton, lost consciousness while boxing at the State Police's Academy. He spent several days in critical condition before he died Tuesday.

Murphy remembered the recruit during a press conference in Trenton on Friday.

"Luke was a young man drawn to service and who would have made a tremendous addition to the ranks of the New Jersey State Police," Murphy said. The flags will be flown in Homeijer's "memory and honor," and he offered thoughts and prayers to Homeijer's family, his classmates and all troopers.

He was a "phenomenal young man who didn't get to live out his dream," added Col. Patrick Callahan, acting superintendent of the State Police.

Callahan previously said Homeijer was also an Eagle Scout. When he was 17, Homeijer attended a Trooper Youth Week at the academy before becoming one of the few to later be accepted as a recruit, Callahan said.