



Governor Charlie Baker has ordered that the United States of America flag and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag be lowered to half-staff from sunrise until sunset on Saturday, November 14, 2020, the day of interment, in honor of USMC First Lieutenant Mark N. Brunelle of Oakham, Massachusetts, who passed away on October 31, 2020.

*At a young age, Mark decided he would become a fighter pilot and set his sights on achieving that goal. Mark was awarded a full Marine NROTC scholarship to attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Between his junior and senior year at Embry Riddle, Mark attended Marine Corps Officer Candidates School, graduating on July 3rd 2015 in Quantico, Virginia. On May 10th 2016, Mark graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science, earning his FAA multi-engine/instrument flight ratings, and received a regular commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. 2nd LT Mark Brunelle received his first salute from his grandfather Sgt. Ernest C. Brunelle USMC.*



*Following completion of The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia on March 1st 2017, Mark was assigned to Training Air Wing FIVE, Naval Air Station Whiting Field to complete his Primary Flight Training, earning a Certificate of Merit in recognition of his superior performance, a distinction achieved by only 8 percent of students trained annually.*

*Mark then became a Tiger of Training Squadron NINE flying T-45C Goshawk Jet Trainers at Naval Air Station Meridian in Mississippi. Following a long year of training that culminated with his carrier qualifications aboard the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74), 1st LT Mark Brunelle received his Wings of Gold, pinned on by his father Cpl. Michael M. Brunelle USMC, on October 25th 2019, designating him a Marine Naval Aviator. It was this day Mark received his assignment to fly the F-35B Lightning II with VFMAF-501 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina.*