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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE PRESENTS LIFESAVING AND VALOR AWARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, April 18, 2002, United States Secret Service Director Brian L. Stafford will present awards to 13 current and former employees whose heroic actions reflect the highest standards of bravery.

The Director's Award of Valor is the highest award given by the Secret Service and will be presented to eight individuals, current and former agents and officers, whose actions took place both on and off duty. Five individuals will be recognized with the agency's Lifesaving Award, for actions that saved the life of another person.

"For the Secret Service, our value is the sum of our people, who everyday commit themselves to duty, honor and country," Director Stafford said. "With these awards, we will pay tribute to 13 individuals who represent the character and spirit of our agency and the values that we hold true."

Among those being honored are four retired special agents whose response to an assassination attempt on May 15, 1972, saved the life of presidential candidate George Wallace. Also being recognized are the agents and officers who helped prevent a violent tragedy from unfolding on the south grounds of the White House in February 2001.

Awards of Valor will be presented to:

- Retired Special Agent William Breen, of Millersville, Maryland; retired Special Agent George F. Kratz, Jr., of Norwich, Vermont; retired Special Agent in Charge Jimmy C. Taylor, of Bush, Louisiana; and retired Assistant Special Agent in Charge Nicholas J. Zarvos, of Sarasota Florida, for their actions and heroism during an assassination attempt on the life of Presidential candidate George Wallace in Laurel, Maryland on May 15, 1972;

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- Special Agent Jeremy J Casey, Washington Field Office; Officer/Technician Bruce Cummings, Uniformed Division/Emergency Response Team; and Special Agent John R. Hast, Washington Field Office, for demonstrating courage and bravery on February 7, 2001, while preventing a volatile situation, involving an armed man, from erupting into a violent tragedy on the south grounds of the White House; and
- Sergeant Dennis G. Berry, Uniformed Division, for attempting to save the life of a drowning victim at Old Mill Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia on June 16, 2001.

Lifesaving Award recipients include:

- Officer/Technician William Hernandez, Uniformed Division, for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking co-worker;
- Officer/Technician Carl Persons, Uniformed Division, for rescuing and resuscitating a victim whose car was submerged in Rock Creek Park;
- Special Agent Matthew Harrell, Indianapolis Field Office, and Special Agent Dan Carbonetti, Cleveland Field Office, for assisting a woman who had been struck by a car travelling at 65 miles per hour in Salt Lake City, Utah; and
- Officer Brian Morrissey, Uniformed Division, for approaching, talking with, and grabbing an individual who was preparing to jump off the Taft Bridge.

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