



## **UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE PRESS RELEASE**

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### **UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE HONORS FIRST OPERATIVE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

CHICAGO – On September 3, 2002, one hundred years after his death, the United States Secret Service will pay tribute to William Craig, the first operative to die in the line of duty. Craig, who is buried in Chicago's historic Oak Woods Cemetery, will be honored during a centennial memorial service.

A native of Glasgow, Scotland and a former bodyguard for Queen Victoria, Craig joined the Secret Service in 1900 in Chicago. He was assigned to the White House in October 1901, just as the Secret Service assumed responsibility for protecting the president.

On September 3, 1902, Craig was killed in a collision between a streetcar and a carriage in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The accident occurred while he was riding with President Theodore Roosevelt. A speeding trolley car crashed into the carriage and the impact instantly killed Operative Craig. President Roosevelt, who suffered cuts and bruises from the fall, said of Craig "He was a sturdy character and tremendously capable in performing his duties. My children thought a great deal of him, as we all did."

Until recently, the location of William Craig gravesite was unknown to the Secret Service. The Chicago Field Office recently reviewed files regarding Operative Craig's connection with Chicago and his gravesite at Oak Woods Cemetery was located.

"Even as we prepare for the future, it's important for us – as individuals and as an agency – to honor the past," said U.S. Secret Service Director Brian L. Stafford. "The tradition of excellence that each of our employees strives for today is built on a long history of commitment and selfless acts. William Craig is an important part of that history."

In recognition of Craig's sacrifice for the President, and for the country, the Secret Service, with the help and support of Chicago area law enforcement, will dedicate a marker at the gravesite. The marker, created by the Granit-Bronz company of Minnesota, details William Craig's life and death.

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“The support we’ve received from our law enforcement community has been remarkable,” said Arnette Heintze, Special Agent in Charge of the Service’s Chicago Field Office. “The Chicago Police Department, Illinois State Police, Illinois Secretary of State Police and other law enforcement have all stepped forward to help us recognize a fallen colleague. With their assistance, William Craig will be visibly honored for his sacrifice.”

At the time of William Craig’s death, survivors included his mother, three sisters and four brothers. Descendents of the Craig family will attend the ceremony.

Oak Woods Cemetery is one of Chicago’s oldest and most historic graveyards. Organized in 1853, Oak Woods is the final resting place for more than 6000 Confederate soldiers who died as prisoners of war at Camp Douglas. Two of Chicago's mayors, Harold Washington and Mayor William Hale Thompson, Olympic champion Jesse Owens, gangster "Big" Jim Colosimo, and physicist Enrico Fermi are among the prominent Chicagoans buried there.

The United States Secret Service was founded in 1865 as a branch of the Treasury Department with the sole mission of suppressing counterfeit currency. It wasn’t until 1901, after the assassinations of three U.S. presidents – Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, and William McKinley – that the agency was given the responsibility of protecting America’s leader, the President.

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