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TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES HONORED WITH MMS 2002 JOAN KILLGORE AWARD

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton presented the Minerals Management Service's 2002 Joan Killgore Award to two employees of the Navajo Nation and one employee of the Southern Ute Tribe in a ceremony at the U.S. Department of the Interior, in Washington, D.C., today.

The MMS Joan Killgore Award formally recognizes individuals from Indian tribes who have made significant contributions toward both improvement of a tribe's ability to manage its own minerals revenue program, as well as self-governance.

Perry Shirley and Rowena Cheromiah, from the Navajo Nation, and Karen Anderson, from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, were honored for their remarkable participation with MMS in royalty collection and audit activities.

"All three are recognized for outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication to improving their tribe's ability to manage their respective minerals programs," said MMS Director Johnnie Burton, "We are pleased to present these awards, the first MMS Joan Killgore Awards, to such worthy recipients."

"The MMS Joan Killgore Award is named for a highly-motivated and dedicated MMS employee, who long-served as the agency's principal point of contact for Indian royalty management issues. She served the Nation and the Indian community with distinction," said MMS Associate Director of Minerals Revenue Management Lucy Querques Denett. "The award reflects proudly upon Ms. Killgore and the award recipients."

Shirley is currently chairman of the Royalty Policy Committee and assistant director of the Navajo Nation's Minerals Department.

He has personally participated in the MMS Cooperative Audit Program since its inception more than 15 years ago. He was also one of the first members of the MMS's Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Fellowship Program, when it began in 1985.

Cheromiah has been with the MMS Cooperative Audit Program for more than 10 years and participated in the IPA Fellowship Program from 1993 to 1995.

Anderson has been an active member of the Royalty Policy Committee, assisting MMS in formulating policies regarding Indian mineral resources. She has also been involved in the MMS Cooperative Audit Program for more than 15 years.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These revenues totaled nearly \$10 billion in 2001 and more than \$120 billion since the agency was created in 1982.

During those 20 years, 41 tribes and more than 20,000 individual Indian mineral owners have received nearly \$3.4 billion.

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