



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

**REMARKS PREPARED FOR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN MORTON**

**U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2010
ICE HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL CEREMONY
ICE PCN HEADQUARTERS
JULIE MYERS CONFERENCE CENTER
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010
2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

- Good afternoon everyone and thank you for joining us. My particular thanks to U.S. Secret Service Director Sullivan and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Mayorkas for being here. We know you both have a lot on your plate, and we're delighted you were able to join us.
- It means a lot to us at ICE that all of you have found the time to be here today during National Police Week as we honor the life and work of those officers and agents who have paid the ultimate price in the service of their country.
- Sadly, we at ICE have felt the pain of loss this year and are still grieving over the deaths of some of our beloved colleagues. Just two weeks ago,

our chief counsel in Baltimore, George Maugans, died unexpectedly after 30 years of service.

- The business of law enforcement can be difficult, challenging, and dangerous regardless of where officers serve in our nation. Last year, our country suffered the loss of 116 men and women law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.
- Some of these as you may recall resulted in were multiple casualties, such as the three officers gunned down in Pittsburg, Penn.; the two sheriff's deputies shot in Okaloosa County, Fla.; and four Lakewood, Wash., officers executed.
- These types of incidents remind us that our agents and officers at ICE work in a world marked by high risk, long hours, and personal sacrifice. As Assistant Secretary let me reiterate how grateful I am for the work you do. We would not be a great country if it were not for your dedication and the strength of our criminal justice system.
- This year's National Police Week is particularly special for ICE. Today, we unveil our own Honor and Remembrance Memorial. I was struck when I first became Assistant Secretary that we did not

have a memorial, and I am very pleased to report that we now do and I invite you all to see it at the end of our program.

- The memorial is dedicated to the law enforcement officers from ICE and our legacy agencies – the Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service – who gave their lives in the line of duty. The design committee did a lovely job, and they have my sincere thanks.
- We are greatly honored to have as our special guests today some of the family members of our fallen officers being memorialized. Some of you have traveled a great distance to join us today. Thank you; it means a great deal to us that you would come.
- I believe I speak for everyone at ICE when I say thank you for lending us your loved ones in service to law enforcement. They performed admirably and served their country well. We will never forget who they were and what they did to protect their communities.
- I'd like to acknowledge each family and ask that you please stand, and stay standing, when I call your names.

- The family of David Wilhelm
- The family of Lorenzo Roberto Gomez
- The family of Gary Friedli
- The family of Manual Zurita VII
- The family of Roger L. Von Amelunxen
- Let's give these families a warm welcome from the ICE family.
- Let me tell you a little bit about these fallen officers.
 - ICE Assistant Special Agent in Charge David Gray Wilhelm had been assigned to the Office of Investigations SAC Office in Atlanta when he was ambushed at his residence by a fugitive who escaped from police custody after this criminal had shot and killed a Fulton County Superior Court Judge. David died on March 11, 2005, after 18 years of government service.
 - David's family remembers him as a person with a "magnetic personality." He drew people to him and loved to make others laugh. The ultimate prankster, he loved to play

practical jokes. On the more serious side, David was strong and confident – a natural leader.

- ICE Immigration Enforcement Agent Lorenzo Roberto Gomez had been assigned to the Field Office in El Paso, Texas. Agent Gomez succumbed to injuries sustained while participating in a Special Response Team training session in El Paso. He died on Nov. 8, 2003, after eight years of government service.
- Ms. Gomez says of her late husband that Lorenzo was dedicated to the job. He never wanted to call in sick because he didn't want to disappoint anyone. He was so proud to wear the uniform and he was buried in it. He was an amazing person and would have gone far in the agency if he was still alive.”
- U.S. Customs Service Special Agent Gary Friedli was assigned to the Resident Agent in Charge in Douglas, Ariz. SA Friedli had been en route to investigate a drug smuggling activity when he was involved in a fatal traffic accident. He died on March 4, 1998, after two years of government service.

- Mrs. Dorene Kulpa-Friedli remembers Gary as “the epitome of strength, honor and trust. He loved his family and his friends. “It was an honor to be his wife,” Dorene says.
- In 2009, the ICE Special Agents in Douglas, Ariz., honored SA Friedli by renaming the Assistant Special Agent in Charge Office in Douglas, Ariz., which is now called the Gary P. Friedli building.
- U.S. Customs Service Senior Special Agent Manuel Zurita VII was assisting the U.S. Secret Service on a presidential protection detail while President William J. Clinton was in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Agent Zurita’s vessel struck a coral reef, and he was severely injured. Agent Zurita died from his injuries on Jan. 6, 1998. He had 12 years of government service.
- The Zurita family holds wonderful memories of Manuel. His daughter, Denisse, says “He was a social butterfly. Wherever he’d go, he’d meet people he knew. He loved his job. He always looked forward to the next day.” Zurita’s sister, Maria, says that her brother knew so many people. They all spoke highly

of him. Even after 12 years since his death, not a day goes by that somebody doesn't mention his name.

- U.S. Customs Service Special Agent Roger Von Amelunxen was shot and killed as he attempted to apprehend a suspect who had just robbed a cab driver in the Queens section of New York City. Von Amelunxen was killed on July 30, 1980.
- In memory of their son, Roger Von Amelunxen's parents set up the Roger L. Von Amelunxen Foundation, Inc. The Foundation aids U.S. Customs Service, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ICE employees and their families. To date, the Foundation has provided more than \$4.7 million in assistance grants.
- These five men join 43 other fallen officers and agents on our new memorial: special agents, detention officers, pilots, patrol officers, and air interdiction officers – all heroes working toward one important goal – to protect our country from the ravages of crime.

- Heroes such as Paul Ice and Claude Medearis, two Customs Service agents who were killed on April 19, 1995, during the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building – a bombing that took the lives of 163 men, women, and children.
- Heroes such as U.S. Customs Service Agent Joseph Sitter who lost his life in the line of duty. Agent Sitter was killed in 1915 in the rugged mountains of the Pilares Canyon as he and a posse of Texas Rangers hunted down a gang of horse thieves who had killed U.S. Customs Service agent John Simpson Howard.
- 95 years later, our federal agents are combating an acceleration of crime that has infiltrated into our border states. While horse thieves may be bandits of a by-gone era, criminals are still a menacing force that ICE agents and officers deal with every day – whether Mexican drug dealers, violent gang members, alien smugglers, or hardened criminals coming out of U.S. prisons.
- Today’s world is no more gentle than it was in 1915. Our nation needs men and women with smarts, courage, and tenacity to keep us safe. Fortunately, we have such people at ICE – agents, officers, attorneys, and administrative personnel

doing what our country needs them to do – keep us safe, keep us honest.

- I would like to say to the families of our fallen officers here today – the families of David Wilhelm, Lorenzo Roberto Gomez, Gary Friedli Manual Zurita VII, and Roger Von Amelunxen that your loved ones did not die in vain.
- You have only to look at the great work this agency does every day to know that these men are still with us. We all build on the work of those that went before us. We are catching, prosecuting, and removing record numbers of serious criminals every day. But for people like your relatives, we wouldn't be here.
- On behalf of ICE, I thank you and the families of our other fallen officers and agents for the contributions your relatives made.
- How can we repay the 48 law enforcement officers who now grace the wall of ICE's Honor and Remembrance Memorial? How can we express our heartfelt thanks to the men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives to safeguard communities and regions from armed and dangerous thugs?

- We can do things like this – remember them, lay wreaths for them, celebrate their work. We can also use their example to live rightly and honestly ourselves. Be just, decent, and kind. Work hard and honorably. Be a good father or mother. Support your brother or sister.
- Strive to live each day so that David Wilhelm, Lorenzo Roberto Gomez, Gary Friedli, Manual Zurita and Roger Von Amelunxen would be proud of you, of this agency, of our Department. In the end, doing what is right is the most meaningful tribute we can make.

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