

**CONTACT:** Kurt Gregory Erickson  
President

**PHONE:** W. 703/893-0461  
**CELL.** 703/625-2303

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## **AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT LAUDED** **FOR FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING**

### ***VIRGINIA GOVERNOR JOINS TENTH-ANNUAL EVENT IN HONORING GREATER WASHINGTON'S POLICE***

**McLean, VA, Dec. 7** – Fourteen Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited for their “outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington” today and presented with the area’s tenth-annual “Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.”

Presented this morning at a regional ceremony featuring Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 2007 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria Police Department’s** Officer Mark Morgan
- **Arlington County Police Department’s** Sergeant Wayne Vincent
- **Fairfax County Police Department’s** PFC Patrick M. Nolan
- **Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office’s** Deputy Anthony Cooper AND Deputy First Class Wade Phillips
- **Maryland State Police’s** Trooper Justin L. Mallow
- **Metropolitan Police Department’s** (D.C.) Officer Jose Rodriguez AND Officer Roberto Torres AND Officer Andrew Zabavsky
- **Montgomery County Department of Police’s** Sergeant Eric Bunting
- **Prince George’s County Police Department’s** Corporal Steven Allen
- **Prince William County Police Department’s** Officer Edward McDermott
- **United States Park Police’s** Officer Adam Zielinski
- **Virginia State Police’s** Trooper Michael S. Middleton

The annual awards, presented at a ceremony this morning at Maggiano’s Little Italy in the Tysons Galleria, were bestowed by WRAP in memory of Metropolitan Police Department’s Motor Patrol Officer Anthony W. Simms. Officer Simms, as a result of injuries sustained while on duty, lost his life to an impaired driver during Memorial Day

weekend in 1996. WRAP's 2007 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms' widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with FOX 5 DC's Melanie Alnwick and WUSA-TV's Jan Fox, serving as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

***"Today's awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington,"*** said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. ***"It is only through their commitment in stopping the threat that impaired driving presents to all our friends and families that the Washington-metropolitan area continues to have a rate of alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average."***

According to WRAP, local law enforcement officers made 14,846 DUI / DWI arrests throughout the Washington-metropolitan region in 2006.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2007 WRAP honorees also received two complementary Washington Wizards tickets (courtesy of the Washington Wizards) and a \$ 25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil).

Founded in 1982 and commemorating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, *SoberRide*. For more information, visit WRAP's web site at **[www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)**.

*(WRAP's holiday free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide, will operate between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each day between tonight and January 1, 2008. During these evening hours, Washington-metropolitan area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost [up to a \$ 50 fare], safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can call #-TAXI for the same service. See **[www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com)** for more details.)*

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