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## NEWEST VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HELPS LAUD AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

*13<sup>TH</sup>-ANNUAL EVENT HONORS GREATER WASHINGTON'S POLICE*

**McLean, VA, Dec. 17** – Eleven 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 13<sup>th</sup>-annual “Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.”

Presented this morning at a regional ceremony held in McLean, Virginia, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 2010 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria Police Department** Officer Greg Holden
- **Arlington County Police Department** Officer Avery Carroll
- **Fairfax County Police Department** PFC Joseph Woloszyn
- **Loudoun County Sheriff's Office** Deputy Specialist Katie Baldwin
- **Maryland State Police** Trooper Darwin R. Bennett
- **Metropolitan Police Department** Reserve Sergeant Alexander Pope
- **Montgomery County Department of Police** Officer III Gary Finch
- **Prince George's County Police Department** Officer First Class Mark Phillips
- **Prince William County Police Department** Officer Jeremy A. Schenck
- **United States Park Police** Officer Christopher Gogarty
- **Virginia State Police** 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 2010 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms' widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also formerly with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with News4's Sports Anchor Lindsay Czarniak. Today's event speakers included Virginia Supreme Court Justice William C. Mims and U.S. Park Police Chief Sal Lauro, amongst others.

***“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 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (see: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811363.pdf>), alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased by a collective nearly four-percent in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia last year.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2010 WRAP honorees also received a pair of complementary Washington Nationals tickets (courtesy of the Washington Nationals), a \$ 25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil) and a ticket board (courtesy of the region’s *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign).

Founded in 1982, 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, 2011. 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 \$ 30 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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