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GREATER WASHINGTON LAW **ENFORCEMENT LAUDED FOR FIGHT** **AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING**

18TH-ANNUAL EVENT HONORS LOCAL POLICE IN FIGHT AGAINST DUI

Washington, DC, Dec. 11 – One-dozen Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited today for their “outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington” and presented with the area’s 18th-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 2015 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria Police Department** Officer Wesley Vitale
- **Arlington County Police Department** Officer Michael Merhar
- **City of Falls Church Police Department** Officer Kevin Hedden
- **Fairfax County Police Department** Officer Sameer Khan
- **Herndon Police Department** Private First Class Eliezer Calo
- **Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office** Deputy Glenn “Patrick” Keough
- **Maryland State Police** Trooper Brent Riddle
- **Metropolitan Police Department (DC)** Officer Jesus Perez
- **Montgomery County Department of Police** Officer III John P. Romack
- **Prince William County Police Department** Officer II Jeremy A. Schenck
- **United States Park Police** Officer Matthew Manning
- **Virginia State Police** Trooper Adam Hassan

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 2015 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms’ widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also formerly with the Metropolitan Police

Department, along with *News4's* (NBC) Traffic Reporter Melissa Mollet. Today's event speakers included National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator Mark R. Rosekind, Ph.D. as well as Arlington County Police Department Deputy Chief Michael Dunne. (The Arlington County Police Department co-hosted this morning's event with WRAP.)

"Today's awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. ***"They're collective effort to annually arrest and remove nearly 18,000 drunk drivers from Washington-metropolitan area roadways has undoubtedly saved lives."***

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2015 WRAP honorees also received a Checkpoint Strikeforce shirt as well as a pair of complementary Washington Nationals tickets (courtesy of the Washington Nationals) and a \$ 25 gift card to Glory Days Grill (courtesy of Glory Days Grill).

Sponsors of WRAP's 2015 Law Enforcement Awards & Holiday Campaign Kick-Off included The Beer Institute, Cardinal Bank, GEICO, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Glory Days Grill, Interstate Worldwide, Red Top Cab, Safeway, Volkswagen Group of America and Washington Wholesale.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with historically keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths 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**.

*(WRAP's holiday free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide, will operate between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening between tonight and January 1, 2016. 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 #WRAP for the same service. See **www.soberride.com** for more details.)*