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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

20TH-ANNIVERSARY EVENT HONORS LOCAL POLICE IN FIGHT AGAINST DUI

Washington, DC, Dec. 15 – Fourteen (14) 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 20th-anniversary “Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.”

Bestowed this morning at a regional ceremony held in McLean, Virginia, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 2017 Law Enforcement Awards to:

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| • Officer Wesley Vitale | City of Alexandria Police Department |
| • Master Police Officer Dimitrios Mastoras | Arlington County Police Department |
| • Corporal Kevin Hedden | City of Falls Church Police Department |
| • Officer Devin White | Fairfax County Police Department |
| • Private First Class Eliezer Calo | Town of Herndon Police Department |
| • Deputy John Chavez | Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office |
| • Trooper Dennis Moguche | Maryland State Police |
| • Officer Derrick Ferguson | Metropolitan Police Department |
| • Police Officer II Lawrence Caldwell | Montgomery County Department of Police |
| • Police Officer III John Romack | Montgomery County Department of Police |
| • Police Officer First Class Richard D. Carlson III | Prince George’s County Police Department |
| • Officer Matthew Sciabica | Prince William County Police Department |
| • Officer Benjamin Tomasiello | United States Park Police |
| • Trooper Lucie Vajglova | Virginia State Police |

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 2017 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 Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard (the Herndon Police Department co-hosted this morning’s event with WRAP) and Richard Leotta, father of late Montgomery County Police Officer Noah Leotta.

“Today’s awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. ***“Their collective effort to annually arrest and remove nearly 15,000 drunk drivers from Washington-metropolitan area roadways has undoubtedly saved lives.”***

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2017 WRAP honorees also received 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 2017 Law Enforcement Awards & Holiday Campaign Kick-Off included The Beer Institute, BREAKTHRU BEVERAGE – Washington, D.C., GEICO, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, George Washington University Hospital, Glory Days Grill, Interstate Moving | Relocation | Logistics, Lyft and the Volkswagen Group of America.

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 safe ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide, will operate between 8:00 pm and 4:00 am each evening between tonight and January 1, 2018. During these evening hours, Washington-metropolitan area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones and enter the applicable code in the app’s ‘Promo’ section. During this campaign, there will be three different single use promo codes issued. Each code is valid for up to \$15 off one ride taken in Lyft’s Washington, D.C. coverage area. WRAP’s Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2:00 pm on December 15, December 23 and December 31 on www.SoberRide.com. Limited quantities available. See www.SoberRide.com for more details.)

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