Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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**For Immediate Release:** May 2, 2012
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**WASHINGTON** – Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Donald "Del" Laverdure will deliver the keynote address at the 21st Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service being held Thursday, May 3, 2012, at the Bureau of Indian Affairs United States Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M. He will be accompanied by BIA Director Mike Black and BIA Office of Justice Services Deputy Bureau Director Darren Cruzan. The OJS hosts the event, which honors and commemorates tribal, state, local and federal law enforcement officers working on federal Indian lands and in tribal communities who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Three names will be added at the event bringing the total number of fallen officers listed on the memorial to 99. Those to be added at this year's ceremony are:

- Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives Federal Agent William Louis Pappan, who was killed on December 4, 1935, in Indian Territory while inspecting beer licenses near Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Officer Aaron Daniel Peru, who died on February 13, 2011, on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona from injuries he received in a motor vehicle accident while on official business.
- Navajo Nation Tribal Sergeant of Police Darrell Cervandez Curley, who died on June 25, 2011, on the Navajo Nation Reservation from a gunshot wound he received while making an arrest in a domestic dispute.

The OJS holds the service in conjunction with other law enforcement organizations and agencies including the International Association of Chiefs of Police Indian Country Law Enforcement Section, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). The memorial and the Indian Police Academy are located on the FLETC campus in Artesia.

The Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was first dedicated on May 7, 1992, at the U.S. Indian Police Academy, which was then in Marana, Ariz. The academy and memorial were later moved to their present site, where the memorial was re-dedicated on May 6, 1993.

The earliest name inscribed on the memorial dates back to 1852. In addition to those from BIA and tribal law enforcement, officers listed represent the U.S. Border Patrol, the New Mexico State Police, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Customs Bureau, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The list includes one female officer, from the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, who was killed in 1998; a father and son, both BIA officers, who died in 1998 and 2001, respectively; and two FBI agents killed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975.

The memorial's design is based upon indigenous design concepts. Comprised of three granite markers sited within a circular walkway lined with sage, a plant of spiritual significance to many tribes, the memorial includes four planters filled with foliage in colors representing people of all races. The planters represent the four directions and are located near the walkway's entrance.

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| **WHO**: | Donald “Del” Laverdure, acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior Mike Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, DOI Darren Cruzan, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, DOI |
| **WHAT**: | Acting Assistant Secretary Laverdure will deliver the keynote address at the 21st Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial Service, where the names of three fallen officers will be added to the memorial. |
| **WHEN**: | 10:00 a.m. (local time), Thursday, May 3, 2012. |
| **WHERE**: | United States Indian Police Academy, DHS Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, 1300 West Richey Avenue, Artesia, N.M. Phone: 505-748-8151. |

**CREDENTIALS**: This invitation is extended to working media representatives, who are required to display sanctioned media credentials for admittance to the event.

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