



UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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SAN DIEGO CONVENTION CENTER

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1999

ATTORNEY GENERAL

9:45 p.m. - 9:50 p.m.

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JANET RENO: First of all, I have a letter from the President of the United States:

"As our nation marks the 75th Anniversary of the United States Border Patrol, I extend warmest congratulations to the men and women whose exemplary service proves that honor first is not just a mere motto but also words to live by. Since its inception, the Border Patrol has been on the front line of some of our nation's most critical law enforcement challenges.

With a force of 450 officers in 1924, the Border Patrol has evolved into the largest federal uniformed law enforcement organization with more than 8,000 of America's best

trained, best equipped officers. As the Border Patrol and its mission have grown, so, too, have the risk that agents face. But undaunted by danger, border patrol agents stand ready to go wherever they are needed to save lives, protect America's borders and promote justice.

On behalf of all Americans, I salute our nation's Border Patrol agents for your courage and commitment to excellence, and I thank you for your dedicated service to our nation. Best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success in the years to come.
Bill Clinton."

I have been from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico and seen you in action in so many different situations; some difficult, some humorous, but always in the service of this nation. Tonight, I have had a chance to meet so many members of your families.

To all of you, this award means so very much because you are my heroes and heroines. Thank you for all that you do for this nation.