

Chief Patrol Agent  
Yuma, Arizona

March 27, 1978

Supv. Border Patrol Agent James K. Story  
Yuma, Arizona

### An Act Beyond the Call of Duty

On Saturday March 25, 1978, at 6:29 p.m., Agent Larry Herbert happened to be at the site of the construction bridge between the Andrade and Morelos areas, which is restricted to truck traffic only. It is a dam-type bridge, the length of one flat car, which restricts the flow of water into the Colorado River. The restricted water creates a turbulent whirlpool that is extremely dangerous.

As Agent Herbert approached the bridge, he observed three persons in a boat drifting towards the bridge. The operator of the boat was frantically trying to start the motor. At this point, Agent Herbert called on the radio for help. I was dispatched from Headquarters by SPA Weber so a supervisor would be on the scene.

Agent Herbert attempted to reach them with his tow strap prior to their being drawn under the bridge by the current. However, he was unsuccessful and the boat was sucked under the bridge and capsized. All three occupants were thrown from the boat and were unable to use it to hold their heads out of the water. Agent Herbert was able to retrieve two of the occupants quickly. He had one of the occupants use the radio in his vehicle and advise that more help was needed. The third occupant had been taken into the whirlpool and was about 75' below the bridge. Agent Herbert jumped in the water and attempted to rescue him. He gave the man instructions to follow his instructions or they would both drown, as he was getting tired.

Agent Herbert attempted to free himself and the victim from the whirlpool. In doing so, he became exhausted. At this time, Agents McIver and Crockett arrived on the scene. Agent Herbert told the victim that he would have to turn him loose as he could not reach the shore with him and they would both drown. The man was immediately taken back into the whirlpool. Agent Herbert reached the shore totally exhausted.

Agent McIver then dove in and again the man did exactly as directed. Agent McIver then, after a few moments, was able to free himself and the victim from the whirlpool. As he approached the shore, he too became exhausted. Agent Crockett then reached out for him and succeeded in retrieving both of them from the water.

March 27, 1978

I arrived on the scene after the emergency had passed, and talked to the victims. There is no doubt in their minds that they would have drown had it not been for the quick action of these officers.

I only hope that these men can receive some special recognition which they well deserve. They thought nothing of risking their life to save their fellow man. This is a shining example of the quality of the men in the U. S. Border Patrol.

James K. Steg



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

May 23, 1979

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

CO 691-C

Mr. William A. McIver  
Border Patrol Agent  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Fort Fairfield, Maine

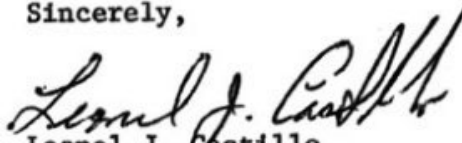
Dear Mr. McIver:

On behalf of the Western Region and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, please accept my deep appreciation for your outstanding dedication to duty and to the mission of the Service while serving as a Border Patrol Agent in Yuma, Arizona. In recognition thereof, I am happy to inform you that you have been selected to receive the Newton-Azrak Award.

On March 25, 1978 you received instructions to proceed to the site of a construction bridge between the Andrade and Morelos areas to assist in a rescue mission. When you arrived, another Border Patrol Agent who was attempting to save a person from drowning became exhausted and had to abandon his attempt. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for your own safety, you dove into the water in an effort to save the person who was caught in a turbulent whirlpool. As a result of your courageous effort, the person was pulled to safety with the assistance of another Border Patrol Agent. Your performance was in keeping with the finest tradition of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

I am extremely proud to have you as an employee of this Service and wish you every success in your assignment at Fort Fairfield, Maine. The Service is indeed fortunate to have a Border Patrol Agent of your caliber.

Sincerely,

  
Leonel J. Castillo  
Commissioner

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION

SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA 90731

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

PLEASE REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

WR 71/8.17-C

August 24, 1978

Mr. William A. McIver  
Border Patrol Agent  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
P.O. Box 1152  
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. McIver:

I wish to express my appreciation for your quick and courageous action in the rescue of three persons in imminent danger of drowning after their boat capsized in a waterway near the international boundary.

Your disregard of personal safety in this lifesaving effort is to be highly commended and is certainly a reflection on yourself, your fellow Border Patrol Agents and on the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Sincerely,



Ed O'Connor  
Regional Commissioner