



U.S. BORDER PATROL
Immigration and Naturalization Service
P.O.Box 6218
New Orleans, Louisiana 70174

Office of the
Chief Patrol Agent

May 11, 1994

For release May 24, 1994:

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On May 23, 1994, Senior Border Patrol Agent Michael J. Deshaies was presented the Newton-Azrak award for valor by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. INS Commissioner Doris Meisner made the presentation to Agent Deshaies at a special ceremony in San Antonio, TX. The prestigious award is named in honor of two young Border Patrol officers who were kidnapped by smugglers in 1967 and later murdered.

On February 18, 1993, while performing his duties as patrol agent, Agent Deshaies, in an act of unparalleled bravery and heroism, exhibited total disregard for his own personal safety by diving into the frigid water of a wide drainage canal near Pensacola, FL and pulling a drowning victim to safety.

The victim, a fleeing illegal alien, was carried ashore and revived by Agent Deshaies. "Unselfish acts performed in the face of paying the supreme sacrifice deserve recognition of the highest order" Chief Patrol Agent, Jesse F. Tabor, Chief of the New Orleans, Sector Headquarters said. "Agent Deshaies is truly

more

deserving of this high honor."

Deshaies is a native of Massena, NY and the son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Deshaies, also of Massena. He is a 1968 graduate of Holy Family High School and a graduate of St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY where he received a BA degree in 1972. Agent Deshaies joined the U.S. Border Patrol in March, 1983 at El Paso, Texas. In July, 1988 he received a promotion to Senior Patrol Agent and transferred to Mobile, Alabama. Agent Deshaies is married to Martha Brown Deshaies also of Massena. They have a son who attends Auburn University.

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