

It was one short year ago that employees from three separate agencies joined forces under the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to rise to an unprecedented challenge—preventing acts of terrorism within the United States. The merger fortified our national boundaries as never before. Bringing distinct histories and cultures to the war on terrorism, personnel from the Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, including the Border Patrol, and the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service merged to become “One Face at the Border.” We mark CBP’s one-year anniversary in March 2004, but employees from those agencies had locked arms from day one, seamlessly, with the dedication to duty that we honor today.

They are comrades in arms, sentinels at the boundary to freedom, these men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection who have put national security above their own goals, interests, safety, even above their own survival.

The U.S. Customs Service is as old as the nation itself, created in 1789 by the first Federal Congress and signed into law by the new country’s first president. The Service’s mission was to tax and regulate imported merchandise, and to do so, it established 59 ports of entry, which by 2003 had increased to more than 300.

Almost a century later, right after the Civil War, the still-new democracy found that it also needed to manage the huge influx of foreigners seeking freedom in the New World. The Immigrant Act of 1891 stationed the first “immigrant inspectors,” as they were then called, at the nation’s major ports of entry.

But America is a big place; by 1900, the perimeter of the continental United States was almost 18,000 miles around. Illegal migrants were learning quickly that the most expedient way in was through the vast expanses of unguarded land and sea between the official ports of entry. On May 28, 1924, Congress passed a law creating

a new law enforcement organization known as the United States Border Patrol. The Border Patrol has now grown to more than 11,000 agents. In 2003 alone, the Border Patrol has apprehended more than 930,000 illegal migrants.

The Department of Agriculture, created in 1862, had as its earliest mission the “procurement, propagation, and distribution... of new and valuable seeds and plants.” Over the years, however, the Department learned that along with these new, experimental plants, new pests and diseases were introduced into the country. The Plant Quarantine Act of 1912 was passed to address the infestations breaking out in the country’s carefully cultivated nursery stocks. This act subsequently evolved into the legislation that created APHIS 60 years later.

More than 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers stood fast against foreign tyrants, fighting a war for an infant nation’s sovereign survival. They paid for independence with their lives; their wisdom and prescience remain uncommon even today. The outcome of their struggles is democracy: the notion that the agents of government can be both stable yet flexible enough to rise up in unison more than 200 years later against a different kind of foreign tyrant—the terrorist, the dishonorable, invisible combatant in an undeclared war to take down the ideals of democracy.

The Founding Fathers would understand instinctively the price paid by the men and women we honor today, because it’s the American ideal for which they also gave their lives. Men like James Epling and all the other individuals whose names are on this Memorial, acted with uncommon valor and it is upon us, as a nation, to live up to their sacrifice.

Valor Memorial History

The U.S. Customs Service originally unveiled its first Valor Memorial in August 1985, engraving the names of 49 agents upon the Memorial's marble tablets. In May 2000, the U.S. Customs Service unveiled a new Memorial including the

name of any officer lost as the direct result of an action carried out in the line of duty.

Today, we rededicate this Memorial, reaching back two centuries to honor the past efforts of those who secured our borders, and recognizing our unified front moving forward as U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

These courageous officers and agents are in our thoughts everyday as we carry on the mission for which they gave their lives. But they are especially in our thoughts on this day as we pause to reflect on their heroic service.

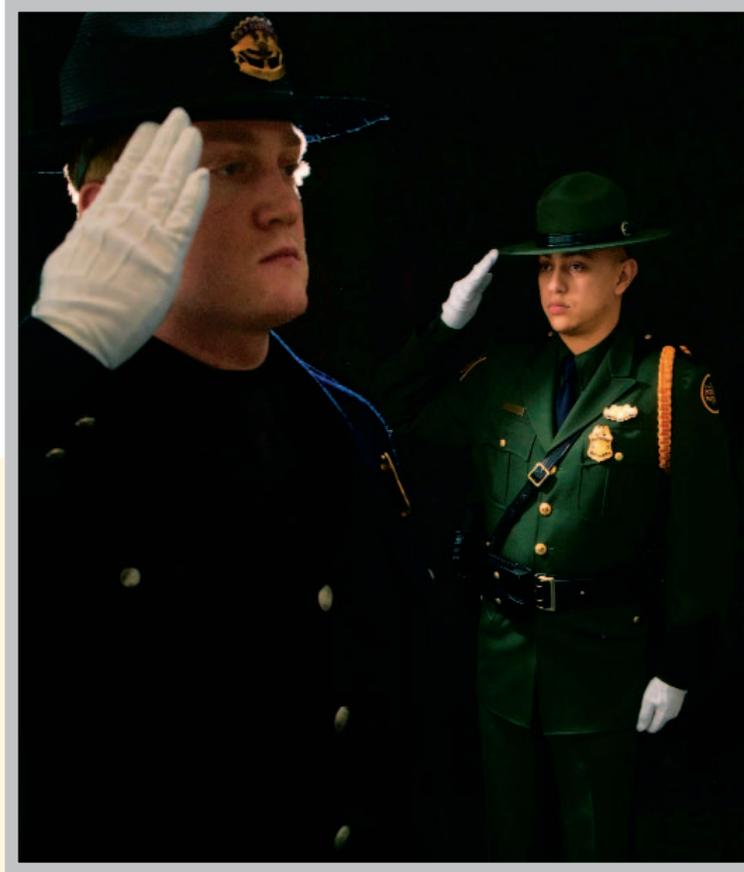
—Commissioner Robert C. Bonner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection



U. S. Customs and
Border Protection



U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Valor Memorial

Dedication March 2, 2004

VIGILANCE ★ SERVICE ★ INTEGRITY

CBP Border Patrol Agent James P. Epling, 1979–2003

On the evening of December 16, 2003, Border Patrol Agent James P. Epling disappeared while in pursuit of several illegal aliens along the Colorado River. Agent Epling, assigned to the Yuma Border Patrol Sector in Yuma, Ariz., was working near Andrade, Calif., when he was last seen attempting to apprehend a group of illegal aliens along the banks of the river.

Moments prior to his disappearance, Agent Epling, with disregard for his personal safety, entered the swift, cold waters of the Colorado River to rescue a female alien in distress. Agent Epling reached for the woman and pulled her to the safety of the riverbank where another agent waited to assist. Agent Epling pursued



four other individuals running south toward Mexico along the riverbank in an attempt to escape arrest. That was the last time Agent Epling was seen alive.

A massive search and rescue operation involving multiple state, local, federal and Mexican officials was immediately initiated. On December 20, 2003, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner joined by Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Viña announced the recovery of the body of CBP Border Patrol Agent Epling.

Agent Epling is survived by his wife, their four children, his parents, and two brothers.

“Like countless young Americans throughout our nation’s history, Agent James Epling stood up without hesitation or delay to display the kind of values he believed were synonymous with America. His test came early, and he did not fail. What he has left us with is not a long list of achievements – his career was too short for this – but with the certain knowledge that he was a hero, the best of the best, and that it is our job now – yours and mine – to live up to this young agent’s example.”

—Commissioner Robert C. Bonner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Customs

J.M. Anderson	1863
Louis E. Babcock	1931
George M. Bacon	1955
Joseph Baker	1932
Renault R. Bayhi	1975
Arthur M. Beaman	1929
Peter H. Bima	1947
Charles J. Bokinskie	1974
Ralph B. Bowden	1932
Clyde M. Bristow	1932
Joseph T. Brown	1940
James A. Buczel	1988
Herff A. Carnes	1932
Frank Chapman	1908
Anthony Cozza	1945
David L. Crater	1987
Lloyd P. Criss	1924
Stephen S. Dawson	1928
David E. De Loach	1993
Louis D. Dixon	1974
Hugh Donnelly	1947
Ellis Drake	1808
Egbert Ellison	1930
Gary P. Friedli	1998
Arnold W. Gilbert	1931
William B. Goodell	1863
William Halley	1976
George E. Hamilton	1931
John H. Heard	1932
Loy C. Henry	1934
John E. Hollingsworth	1984
John S. Howard	1913
Paul D. Ice	1995

Vincent D. Kaskeski	1978
John L. Kelly	1931
Alan J. Klumpp	1993
John M. Lacey	1977
Richard M. Latham	1984
Asa Marsh	1808
Timothy C. McCaghren	1990
Claude A. Medearis	1995
Glenn R. Miles, Sr.	1986
Daniel Miller	1810
Morley L. Miller	1984
Thomas S. Morris	1928
Thomas M. Murray	2001
Rollin C. Nichols	1933
Timothy M. O'Riordan	1964
John W. Parrott	1927
Kenneth P. Pierleoni	1971
Orville A. Preuster	1925
Arthur B. Putnam	1908
Gaston Reddock	1918
Frank B. Robson	1896
Pedro J. Rodriguez	1998
Charles W. Rogers	1929
Daniel A. Romberger	1932
Robert S. Rumsey, Jr.	1922
George R. Saenz	1989
Harry L. Sexton	1934
George W. Singleton	1975
Joseph R. Sitters	1916
George J. Spencer	1981
Benjamin B. Stone	1957
Carl R. Talafous	1993
Fred Tate	1918
James D. Taylor	1987

Clarence J. Trask, Sr.	1947
Denis L. Van Patten	1980
Roger L. Von Amelunxen	1980
James A. Wallen	1923
Kenneth G. Ward	1979
Edward B. Webb	1926
Manuel VII Zurita	1998

Agriculture

John Fogel	1967
Clayton Iijima	1998
James Rozas	1985
Miroslav Sajovic	1973
Morley Suzuki	1998
Milton Wells	1966
Rick Yoshimitsu	1999

Border Patrol

Ralph L. Anderson	1968
George F. Azrak	1967
Michael W. Barnes	1996
Jefferson L. Barr	1996
John S. Blue	1973
Lee L. Bounds	1974
Michael T. Box	1950
William F. Buckelew	1954
James G. Burns	1968
Thomas K. Byrd	1983
Kenneth L. Carl	1961
James M. Carter	1956
Clarence M. Childress	1919
Frank N. Clark	1924
Richard D. Clarke	1950
Keith Connelly	1989
Jesus De La Ossa	1998

Those We Honor

Augustin De La Pena	1925
Edwin C. Dennis	1974
Roberto J. Duran	2002
Earl F. Fleckinger	1945
Joseph P. Gamez Jr.	1978
Charles Gardiner	1922
Ross A. Gardner	1925
Rene B. Garza	1999
Henley M. Goode Jr.	1969
Lester L. Haynie	1985
Robert J. Heibler	1941
Ned D. Henderson	1945
Eloy Hernandez	2002
Benjamin T. Hill	1929
Catherine M. Hill	2002
Elgar B. Holliday	1967
Charles L. Hopkins	1919
Charles F. Inch	1932
Daniel M. James Jr.	2001
Archie L. Jennings	1960
Friedrich Karl	1973
Donald Kee	1954
John D. Keenan	1989
Robert W. Kelsay	1930
James M. Kirchner	1954
Alexander Kirpnick	1998
Robert H. Lobdell	1928
Richard A. Lugo	1967
Xavier G. Magdaleno	1995
Josiah B. Mahar	1988
Miguel J. Maldonado Jr.	1997
James F. Mankin	1924
William D. McCalib	1930
John R. McCravey	1987

William W. McKee	1926
Doyle C. Melton	1933
Jose A. Nava	1995
Theodore L. Newton Jr.	1967
Victor C. Ochoa	1983
Anthony L. Oneto	1947
Walter S. Panchison	1998
Jason C. Panides	2001
Lon Parker	1926
Glen A. Phillips	1974
Thad Pippin	1927
George E. Pringle	1940
Ralph W. Ramsey	1942
John A. Rector	1956
Joseph P. Riley	1925
David F. Roberson	1989
Earl A. Roberts	1929
Susan L. Rodriguez	1998
Norman G. Ross	1928
Manuel Salcido Jr.	1985
Norman R. Salinas	1986
Ricardo G. Salinas	1998
Luis A. Santiago	1995
Miles J. Scannel	1929
Ivan E. Scotten	1929
Douglas C. Shute	1956
William L. Sills	1940
Weldon Smith	1979
Louis D. Stahl	1992
Stephen C. Starch	1997
Phillip D. Strobidge	1933
Stephen M. Sullivan	1999
Oscar T. Torres	1974
Aurelio E. Valencia	1996

Frank Vidmar Jr.	1932
Harry E. Vincent	1930
Bert G. Walthall	1933
Edwin H. Wheeler	1952
Joe R. White	1995
Thomas J. Williams	1998
Franklin P. Wood	1927

Immigration

Alphonse G. Bernard	1920
Frank E. Chaffin	1946
Tommy K. Chin	1999
Jacques A. F. Crevecoeur	1984
Lawrence E. Dotten	1930
Albert Feld	1974
Charles M. Flachs	1936
Lawrence C. Jones	1930
Marion J. Jones	1946
George D. Joyce	1949
James McCabe	1923
Frank Mendoza	1968
Anthony S. Minetto	1997
Juan Gilbert Orellana	1998
William H. Phillips	1970
Roy M. Porter	1939
David Schwartz	1978
Russell L. Stapp	1954
Martin J. Travers	1975

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

James P. Epling	2003
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