

**For Immediate Release
October 22, 2010**

Bevington Congratulates Manuel on Medal of Bravery

Ottawa – 53 distinguished Canadians received awards from Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston. One of today's recipients is from the Northwest Territories.

Thomas Manuel of Fort Good Hope was awarded the Medal of Bravery, for protecting his family during an incident on July 16, 2007. Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington attended the ceremony and congratulated Mr. Manuel on behalf of Northerners.

“It was a privilege to attend the ceremony and witness a fellow Northerner being honoured with this award. Mr. Manuel faced extreme adversity and was successful in protecting his family in such a selfless manner.” said Bevington.

For more information regarding Canadian Decorations of Bravery and the Ceremony Schedule, please see the attached backgrounder, courtesy of the Rideau Hall Press Office.

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Governor General's Citation

Thomas **Manuel**, M.B., Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories
Medal of Bravery

On July 16, 2007, Thomas Manuel was severely injured while protecting his family from an intruder, in Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. The aggressor entered the home and started firing a rifle at members of the household, who then ran into the master bedroom. Mr. Manuel was shot in the neck and stomach when he tried to stop the invader. He quickly retreated to the bedroom, blocked the door with a large chest, and made a rope out of bedsheets and shirts to escape through a window. Once his wife and three grandchildren were safely on the ground, Mr. Manuel climbed down and ran to the side of the house to distract the attacker. The aggressor ran up to Mr. Manuel, shot him in the face, fled, and was later apprehended by the RCMP.

FACT SHEET ON THE DECORATIONS FOR BRAVERY

BACKGROUND

The Decorations for Bravery were created in 1972. They recognize people who risk their lives and choose to defy their own instinct of survival to try to save a loved one or a perfect stranger whose life is in immediate danger.

The three levels of the Decorations for Bravery reflect the degree to which the recipients put themselves at risk:

The Cross of Valour (C.V.) recognizes acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril.

The Star of Courage (S.C.) recognizes acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.

The Medal of Bravery (M.B.) recognizes acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.

ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION

Anyone is free to propose the name of a person who has risked injury or death in an attempt to rescue another person. The incident need not have taken place in Canada, and the rescuer need not be Canadian, but Canadians or Canadian interests must be involved. The Decorations may be awarded posthumously.

Nominations must be made within two years of the incident, or within two years after a public entity, including a court, a quasi-judicial tribunal or a coroner, has concluded its review of the circumstances surrounding the incident or act of bravery.

For more information on the Decorations for Bravery and on the recipients of these awards, please visit www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=73.