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Mr. Speaks began his public service career 42 years ago as a teacher at Intermountain Indian School, a now-closed BIA boarding school in Utah. He went on to serve first as superintendent of the BIA Agency and then as Area Office director in Anadarko, Okla. He went on to become director of the BIA's Portland Area (now Northwest Regional) Office where he has served for 20 years. During the mid-1980s, Mr. Speaks undertook assignments in the BIA's Central Office in Washington, D.C., including twice serving as interim director of the Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP). He also served as acting Deputy Commissioner of the BIA in 1988 and from 1990 to 1991.

Eight other BIA employees also were recognized, one posthumously, for their dedication to duty and the quality of their work.

BIA Law Enforcement Officer Creighton T. Spencer was honored along with other Interior employees who have died in the line of duty since the October 2000 Convocation. Officer Spencer died on March 25, 2001 while responding to a call for assistance. On May 9, 2002, his name was added to the Indian Country Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial at the BIA Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M.

The Department presented its second highest honorary recognition, the Meritorious Service Award, to seven BIA employees: Earl J. Azure, Tribal Government Officer, Great Plains Regional Office, Aberdeen S.D.; Carmen N. Jacobs, Administrative Manager, Great Plains Regional Office; Cora L. Jones, Regional Director, Great Plains Regional Office; Lawrence H. Morrin, Regional Director, Midwest Regional Office, Ft. Snelling, Minn.; Wayne Nordwall, Regional Director, Western Regional Office, Phoenix, Ariz.; Loretta B. Webster, Equal Employment Manager, Great Plains Regional Office and JoAnn N. Young, Superintendent, Rosebud Agency, Rosebud, S.D.

“The BIA is truly honored to have so many of its employees recognized by the Department,” said Assistant Secretary McCaleb. “I want to commend each award recipient for a job well done, and acknowledge our entire BIA staff for their dedication to providing good service to Indian Country.”

The Meritorious Service Award is presented to Interior employees for an important contribution to science or management, a notable career, superior service in administration or in the execution of duties, or initiative in devising new and improved work methods and practices.

Note to Editors: *A photo of Stanley Speaks may be viewed via the Interior Department's web site at www.doi.gov.*

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