

Sergeant Guthrie very courageously challenged him, saying "Stop . . . , stop or I shoot". The Sergeant then discharged a warning shot from his .38 calibre police revolver. The gunman then moved around and down upon the sergeant killing him instantly in a volley of shots. The gunman then took the Sergeant's revolver. Throughout this ordeal Sergeant Guthrie displayed conspicuous courage. His actions in placing himself in danger to protect his staff and members of the public at the cost of his own life were selfless acts of heroism. His bravery and courage were in the highest traditions of the New Zealand Police.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1

18th February 1992

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to approve the posthumous award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 19th December 1991)

George Medal

G.M.

Peter Morris UMBERS (deceased), Senior Constable, New Zealand Police.

In the early hours of Sunday, 27th May 1990 there was an armed robbery at the Poolburn Hotel, Central Otago. As a result police throughout Central Otago were called out. Senior Constable Umbers, stationed at Ranfurly, was directed to go to the intersection of State Highway 85 and the Ida Valley Road. On route to this point and about five kilometres out of Ranfurly, he sighted a vehicle coming from the direction of Poolburn. Constable Umbers was alone and he took the decision that he should stop and check the motor vehicle. He was aware that the offender was armed and that any vehicle he stopped could well be that of the offender. The first vehicle he stopped contained innocent people. Almost immediately after allowing this vehicle to proceed, he stopped a second vehicle which contained the offender. By radio he informed his superiors and other police of the action he was taking. He also advised details of the vehicle, its registration number and the number of occupants. He then failed to respond to any further calls. It was subsequently established that the offender, who was known to Constable Umbers, on alighting from the vehicle was requested to place his hands on the bonnet of the Police car. Constable Umbers then proceeded to search the offender's car and it was while he was doing this that the offender started to argue and then attacked Constable Umbers, kicking him in the head. During the ensuing struggle the Constable's baton was wrestled off him and then used to violently beat him about the head, causing injuries that proved fatal. Constable Umbers acted in the highest traditions of the New Zealand Police.

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G.M.

Eva Helen, Mrs. Dickson.

Mrs. Dickson was a resident at Aramoana when a man ran amok with a firearm on 13th November 1990. After hearing shots being fired, Mrs. Dickson went to investigate and found smoke coming from a neighbour's house. As Mrs. Dickson endeavoured to prevent a man walking in the direction of the shooting, the gunman appeared and began firing shots. With two artificial hips and restricted arm movements through surgery Mrs. Dickson, aged 72, was unable to run for cover and ushered the now wounded man to the roadside where they both fell to the ground. Mrs. Dickson ascertained the man had been seriously wounded in the lower back and was unable to move. With a display of great courage and resource Mrs. Dickson dragged herself to a nearby telephone booth where she urgently summoned an ambulance and Police. She then crawled approximately 100 metres back to the wounded man and comforted him. Concerned at the delay in medical aid Mrs. Dickson then crawled to her home and made further emergency calls. The injured man was rescued by Police but later died of his wounds. Mrs. Dickson continued a tense vigil communicating the gunman's nocturnal activities to Police by telephone throughout the night. Mrs. Dickson's selfless and humane actions in staying with the wounded man in the face of grave danger and conveying situation reports to Police while alone at night with the constant fear of the gunman's appearance, are deserving of the highest praise.

George Medal

G.M.

Royd Philip KENNEDY, Senior Fire Fighter, No. 1A01 District (Auckland), New Zealand Fire Service.

On the evening of Thursday, 9th August 1990 a petrol tanker towing a trailer unit collided with a motor vehicle adjacent to a shopping centre at Wiri Station Road, Manukau City. On impact, the trailer unit overturned and a rapidly increasing and intense fire occurred from the large amount of blazing petrol that was escaping. There was a risk of a major conflagration and explosion.

Senior Fire Fighter Kennedy was with the first fire appliance crew to arrive at the scene and while carrying out initial duties he heard a scream and saw a hand moving from under the overturned trailer. He realised that a person was trapped under the trailer. He immediately went to the assistance of the trapped person, a young girl, and crawled under the trailer to be next to her. Although there was little he personally