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## Honours and Awards

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### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1

30 October 2001

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award of the George Medal and for the publication in *The London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery.

#### George Medal

Andrew James PENNINGTON (Deceased). Civilian.

*For his actions in saving the life of a man who had been attacked by another man armed with a samurai sword.*

On 28 January 2000, a Member of Parliament was holding a surgery for his constituents at his office in Cheltenham. Mr Andrew Pennington was assisting him when the receptionist showed a man into the office. The MP invited the man, who was wearing a full-length overcoat buttoned up to the neck, to sit down but the man declined and stood in front of the MP while he read a letter on which he had been asked to advise. A short conversation took place between them, whilst Mr Pennington looked on, but then the man began to talk nonsensically and without warning reached into his coat and drew out a long curved sword. He stood with the sword raised above his head in both hands, and as the MP stood up, lowered it, pointing the sword tip at the MP's midriff. At this point, Mr Pennington ran to the door of the office and called to the receptionist to get help.

Suddenly, the man lunged forward and thrust the sword at the MP who managed to deflect it with his left arm before grabbing the blade with both hands. The man

tried to pull the sword from the MP's grip and he fell face down onto the sofa with the sword beneath him. The man fell on top of him and struggled to wrestle the sword free without success. Mr Pennington then hit the man from behind and dragged him off the MP, telling the MP to get away. The MP managed to escape and ran out of the office to summon help, but the man got hold of the sword again. A violent struggle then took place in which Mr Pennington tried to restrain the man but was stabbed repeatedly with the sword and was fatally wounded. Mr Pennington died shortly afterwards from his injuries and the man was later arrested.

#### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Dominic Francis BUCK. Police Constable. Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Neil James SPENCER. Police Constable. Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Christopher John ROWLEY. Special Constable. Hertfordshire Constabulary.

*For their actions in saving the life of a man who threatened to jump from a railway bridge into the path of an oncoming train.*

On 3 January 2001, Police Constable Buck and Special Constable Rowley were called to an incident on a road bridge in Stevenage that spanned an electrified railway line. They saw a man standing on a narrow ledge on the parapet, about 40 feet above the railway line. After calling for assistance, they approached the man who told them that he was going to jump in front of the approaching train whose lights they could see. It was dark and raining and the steel parapet and ledge were wet and slippery, but