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Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

21st November 2000

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

Eliza WARD (deceased). Civilian.

For her actions in saving the life of a woman who had been stabbed by a man armed with a knife, despite being fatally wounded herself.

Eliza Ward was working as a manager at a restaurant in Belfast. On Thursday, 17th July 1997, at 9 p.m., the owner of the restaurant arrived and Miss Ward told her that the washing machine on the first floor had flooded water and that a member of staff, the kitchen porter, had gone to clear it up. The owner then went upstairs, and found the kitchen porter sitting in a darkened room, smoking a cigarette. She asked him to follow her to the laundry area to inspect the washing machine, where she saw the floor was still flooded with water. He followed her into the room and stood behind her as she bent down to see how much water was left in the machine. Suddenly she felt a severe pain shoot up her legs and collapsed onto the floor. She thought that she had been electrocuted and grabbed onto the kitchen porter's legs, pleading for help.

At this moment, Miss Ward entered the room after following the owner upstairs. The owner heard Miss Ward scream, and opened her eyes. From where she now lay, face down on the floor, she could see a pool of blood beside her. She realised that she had been stabbed in the back, and that the knife was still in her body.

Miss Ward immediately confronted the kitchen porter and grabbed hold of him in an attempt to restrain him. A violent struggle then took place between them, during which he managed to remove the knife from the owner's back and stab Miss Ward with it. Despite this, she maintained her restraining hold on him and he stabbed her again. He then managed to get away from Miss Ward and ran from the room by a rear exit just as another member of staff entered through another doorway. Miss Ward shouted to the member of staff to get help, and followed him downstairs as he did so. It was at this point that she collapsed from her injuries, a fatal stab wound to her chest. Despite the efforts of the emergency services she slipped into unconsciousness and died later in hospital. The owner of the restaurant, who suffered serious injury, later recovered. The kitchen porter was later arrested.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Stephen John BROWN. Civilian.

For his actions in attempting to prevent an armed robbery of money from a security van.

On Tuesday, 11th November 1997, at 9.30 p.m., Stephen Brown and another security guard were refilling cash machines at a building society in Hertford Town Centre. When they had completed their task, the other guard returned to the security van whilst Mr. Brown locked the