WIFLE Announces the Establishment of the Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence

At Dedication of the ATF National Headquarters’ Auditorium in Honor of Prohibition Investigator and Cryptanalyst Elizebeth Smith Friedman

On Tuesday, June 17, 2014, WIFLE President Catherine W. Sanz, along with Vice President Sheree L. Mixell, attended the Dedication of the ATF National Headquarters’ Auditorium in honor of ATF’s first female Prohibition Investigator and Cryptanalyst Elizebeth Smith Friedman. President Sanz was also invited to make a special announcement of the newly established WIFLE Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence during the ceremony at ATF’s National Headquarters in Washington DC.

Elizebeth Smith Friedman became ATF’s first female Prohibition Investigator and Cryptanalyst during an era when women did not routinely work outside the home. She was the tip of the spear in fighting organized crime groups who controlled liquor and narcotics smuggling, the nation’s highest priority at the time. ATF Historian Osteika recently uncovered Friedman’s lifetime of intelligence contributions and presented her extensive research and findings at WIFLE’s 2013 Leadership Training. After learning of the Elizebeth Smith Friedman’s historic contributions to the intelligence community and her lifetime of public service to our country, WIFLE created the Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence. The newly established award honors federal law enforcement personnel, sworn and non-sworn and full time intelligence professionals, an individual or a group. The award honors significant act(s) for exceptional and sustained level of significant intelligence contributions including innovative intelligence analysis, integrated intelligence functions, increased situational awareness, secure/protect an event (NSSE), reduce/prevent crime, and/or prevents terrorism, in furtherance of the federal law enforcement mission.

Following welcoming remarks by ATF Director B. Todd Jones and keynote speakers U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Christopher J. Tomney and former New York Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, who also served as the
Commissioner of the United States Customs Service and Undersecretary of Enforcement at the United States Treasury; WIFLE President Catherine Sanz made the announcement of the establishment of the Intelligence Award of Excellence named in honor of Elizebeth Smith Friedman. “Today’s ceremony will ensure that law enforcement can celebrate Elizebeth Smith Friedman’s historic contributions and rightfully preserve her place in history”, stated WIFLE President Sanz. “It was a real honor to attend the exciting and historic ATF Dedication honoring one of America’s least well known, up until now, but one of the most courageous and talented women who served in federal law enforcement.” WIFLE has a long-standing history of honoring deserving individuals through our prestigious annual award ceremony, including the contributions women are making every day in federal law enforcement. WIFLE is proud of its’ efforts in memorializing the lifetime of intelligence contributions of Elizebeth Smith Friedman and preserving her legacy through the establishment of this prestigious award.

A synopsis of Ms. Friedman’s pioneering work in federal law enforcement is available at www.wifle.org and at www.atf.gov.

A copy of President Cathy Sanz’s remarks can be found below.

Details outlining the specific criteria of the Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence, and all WIFLE awards, can be found at www.wifle.org.

WIFLE 15th Annual Leadership Training will be held on August 26-27, 2014 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The WIFLE Award Ceremony will be held on August 27th at 12:00 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.
Prepared Remarks: WIFLE President Cathy Sanz

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to ATF Director Todd Jones for the invitation to attend this historic event and for his leadership that has been vital to the public recognition of Elizebeth Smith Friedman, which is so long overdue. It is also an honor to be here with U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Christopher Tomney and former New York City Police Commissioner and United States Customs Service Commissioner Raymond Kelly, who also happens to be my former boss. I would like to commend ATF Historian Barbara Osteika for her outstanding work in uncovering, the previously unknown work of Elizebeth Smith Friedman. Without Barbara’s dedication and resolve, the world would not know about the uncovered jewels of Elizebeth Smith Friedman and her historic contributions to the intelligence community and to the nation’s security. I would also like to acknowledge the family of Elizebeth Smith Friedman…we can only imagine how special this day is for each of you. Today’s ceremony will ensure that law enforcement can celebrate Elizebeth Smith Friedman’s historic contributions and rightfully preserve her place in history. This is an important day for her family, for law enforcement, and, also for all women in federal law enforcement.

Women in Federal Law Enforcement, WIFLE, has a vital role, along with each of your agencies, in our continued commitment to recruit, retain and promote women in federal law enforcement. There is much work to be done, but WIFLE remains dedicated to promoting gender equity through leadership education that provides training, research, scholarships and awards. As most of you are aware, our upcoming annual WIFLE Leadership Training will be held on August 26th and 27th, where we will also hold our prestigious award ceremony. Each year, WIFLE awards scholarships to deserving young women pursuing a degree in criminal justice and presents a variety of awards.

Today, WIFLE is proud to announce the establishment of the Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence, in honor of America’s
first federal law enforcement cryptanalyst, who led the fight against organized crime groups and made a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence…who you have heard so much about her today, most of you for the very first time. The newly established WIFLE Elizebeth Smith Friedman Award of Excellence will honor the achievements made by intelligence professionals, individual or a team, on behalf of federal law enforcement. The achievement(s) must have made a vital and unique contribution to the successful accomplishment of a Federal law enforcement mission. It is in the spirit of pioneer Elizebeth Smith Friedman that we honor her with the creation of this annual award. On August 27th, WIFLE’s first Elizebeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence will be presented at the Omni Shoreham, in Washington, DC, along with our other award winners and scholarship recipients. Director Melissa Bozoki of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, coincidentally from a legacy agency of Elizbeth Smith Friedman, was selected for her leadership in the establishment of the South Texas Border Intelligence Center, the STC. Under Director Bozoki’s leadership, the STC established the framework to develop and guide intelligence to cope with modern, illicit networks and their operating environments. Under her direction, the STC serves as a strategic, integrated intelligence center and clearinghouse that provides a myriad of information and coordinates the collection and sharing of intelligence amongst CBP and its strategic law enforcement and intelligence community partners. Her overall dedication, willingness to implement change and continued innovative methods of securing the nation’s borders unequivocally embodies the spirit and the intent of the Elizabeth Smith Friedman Intelligence Award of Excellence.

Like ATF, in naming this beautiful auditorium in honor of Elizebeth Smith Friedman, WIFLE is honored to name our newly established Intelligence Award of Excellence in her memory. Like Elizebeth Smith Friedman, one of America’s least known, but most courageous and talented women who served in federal law enforcement, the outstanding work of so many needs to be recognized and celebrated. WIFLE is an organization that has a long-standing history to honor deserving individuals through our prestigious annual awards ceremony, including the outstanding contributions that women are making every day in law enforcement. We encourage all agencies to take time out and identify the future Elizebeth Smith Friedmans of their respective organizations. I thank you for this opportunity commemorate and memorialize Elizebeth Smith Friedman. I sincerely trust these efforts will appropriately preserve the legacy of Elizebeth Smith
Friedman that is so well deserved. I would also like to extend an invitation to the Friedman family to attend the WIFLE Award Ceremony, on August 27, in Washington, D.C. And I look forward to seeing many of you, and your employees, at our upcoming WIFLE Annual Leadership Training and Award Ceremony. Thank you.

ATF’s Elizebeth Smith Friedman Dedication Wall, located adjacent to the ATF National Headquarters’ Auditorium named in her honor.

WIFLE President Catherine W. Sanz announces the establishment of the WIFLE Intelligence Award of Excellence named in honor of Elizebeth Smith Friedman as ATF Director B. Todd Jones, U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Christopher J. Tomney and former New York Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, who also served as the Commissioner of the United States Customs Service and Undersecretary of Enforcement at the United States Treasury, look on during the Dedication of the ATF National Headquarters’ Auditorium in Honor of Prohibition Investigator and Cryptanalyst Elizebeth Smith Friedman.