

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GARY J. BYRNE served in federal law enforcement for nearly thirty years, in the U.S. Air Force Security Police, the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service, and most recently as a Federal Air Marshal. While serving as a Secret Service Officer, Gary protected President Bill Clinton and the First Family in the White House. A note from the office of Bill Clinton's Chief of State included praise of Byrne: "Your knowledge of the [Oval] office, the President and the presidency is enviable." Because of his dedication to duty and by-the-book mentality, he was unofficially dubbed "Mayor of the West Wing" by his colleagues. In 1995 Byrne received an evaluation from his superiors in the Secret Service, praising him as a "mature and dependable employee who is an exceptionally well informed member of West Wing detail" and "consistently performs his duties in a highly efficient and conscientious manner." In March 1996, the Secret Service issued a letter of commendation on "the professionalism and the knowledge displayed by Officer Byrne." In July 1996, Byrne received a letter of appreciation from the Secret Service for his "commitment, dedication and professional performance." Because of his direct knowledge and access to the Clintons -- including being assigned outside of the Oval Office for three years -- Byrne was subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. In 1999 Byrne received a certificate of appreciation from the Secret Service for "outstanding support of our protective mission" during the NATO summit in Washington, D.C. Gary served as a Federal Air Marshal until his retirement in early 2016. Praised by the acting director of the Federal Air Marshal Service for his "distinguished career," "commitment to public service" and "contributions to facilitate a professional law enforcement environment."