



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT

Scott VanDeman

Director of Communications

The Governor's Commission on

Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida)

Cell: 850-251-2834

scott@volunteerflorida.org

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA HONORS LEGISLATIVE SPOUSES WITH PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

*Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service to be presented to
49 legislative spouses in ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda. ...*

TALLAHASSEE – The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Volunteer Florida, today announced it will award **49** legislative spouses, all of whom are committed volunteers, with the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, the highest national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service. The **AWARDS** will be presented at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, to be held Thursday, May 3. The award ceremony begins at 8:45 a.m. Eastern Time.

Volunteer Florida also will recognize the spouses for their collective volunteer service. Spouses of state Senate and House legislators throughout Florida volunteered a total of **27,660** hours over the past year. As a result, Volunteer Florida is honoring legislative spouses with the Florida Faithful Volunteer Group Award. The volunteers who will receive **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS** are:

**Cindy Alexander
Beth Allen
Mary Pat Altman
Mindy Ambler
Juda Attkisson
Nina Ashenaafi
Carole Atwater
Abby Bean
Dee Bennett
Steve Bogdanoff
Pete Brandenburg
Jo An Brisé
Ellen Cannon**

**Tiffany Chestnut
Jim Culp
Alice Davis
Jill Deutch
Carol Ford
Julie Galvano
Laurel Geller
Eve Gibson
Barbie Gonzalez
Stephanie
Haridopolos
Dr. Jim Harrell
Jillian Hasner**

**Jeanne Heller
Connie Kendrick
Linda King
Erika Kreegel
Suzanne Legg
Charley Mae
Meadows
Laurie Mealor
Krista Murzin
Anita Nehr
Debbie Nelson
Katie Patronis
Katie Posey**

**Aileen Pruitt
Sharon Ring
Cindy Ross
Jeanette Rubio
Leslie Sands
Tricia Sansom
Susan Seiler
Joan Silverstein
Chené Thompson
Dawn Thurston
Nina Traviesa
Sandra Webster**

(more)



“I encourage all Floridians to follow the example of Florida’s legislative spouses, and volunteer in their communities or neighborhoods,” said Governor Charlie Crist. “If everyone committed just a few hours a week for volunteering, Florida would be an even better place to live.”

The PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, modeled after the President’s Physical Fitness Award, is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the AWARD, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating organizations, such as **Volunteer Florida**, that will verify the service and deliver the AWARD. AWARD eligibility for individuals and groups is based upon hour requirements varying by age.

“Recipients of the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD are role models for all Americans,” said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. “Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving our quality of life. Through their extraordinary commitment to volunteering, these wives and husbands of our elected officials have shown true leadership.”

For more information on volunteering in Florida, please visit www.volunteerflorida.org.

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, please visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov or call 1-866-545-5307.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youth to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism for disaster preparedness and response; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

###

