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**Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA) Names
Recipients of Annual Awards Honoring Suicide Prevention Efforts**

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20, 2007 – The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA), the nation's leading grassroots advocacy organization working to advance public policies that prevent suicide, today announced the winners of the SPAN USA Founders Award, and the SPAN USA Sandy Martin Grassroots Award.

The awards were announced at the annual national awareness and training event, "Building Hope for the Future," in Washington, D.C. SPAN USA's highest honor, the Founders Award, is given for contributions to suicide prevention that best exemplify and carry on the vision of SPAN USA's founders. The Sandy Martin SPAN USA Grassroots Award is given each year to one or more "unsung heroes" working at the local or state level who clearly exemplify sustained commitment to the mission of suicide prevention.

"Every day, suicide has devastating effects on our friends, our families and our communities," said Jerry Reed, SPAN USA's executive director. "That's why I'm so pleased we are honoring these outstanding individuals for their tremendous work in promoting suicide prevention awareness in their communities."

Maury Lieberman and Leslie Scallet of Washington, D.C. were awarded the 2007 SPAN USA Founders Award for their work transitioning SPAN USA from Georgia to Washington, D.C. in 2003.

"Like our founders, they have a vision to succeed and know how to work with others to achieve it," Jerry Reed, SPAN USA executive director, said. "Their skills and leadership have been invaluable to SPAN USA."

Lieberman is a former career federal employee and retired from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He has also been a SPAN USA board member and chairman. Scallet has been a legal, policy, and organizational development advisor for SPAN USA since 1998, is the founding executive director of the nonprofit Mental Health Policy Resource Center, and most recently was senior vice president of The Lewin Group, Inc.

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Recipients of the Sandy Martin SPAN USA Grassroots Award include:

- **LaRita Archibald**, of Colorado Springs, Colo., a pioneer of the suicide survivor movement and founder of Heartbeat, one of the first support groups started in the U.S. She is also the American Association of Suicidology 1994 Survivor of the Year.
- **Karyl Chastain Beal**, of Columbia, Tenn., is a founder of several online support groups that collectively reach out to more than 1,500 people worldwide and is active with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.
- **Linda Flatt**, of Las Vegas, Nev., is a facilitator of Surviving Suicide Loss, Community Organizer for SPAN USA, and chair of the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention.
- **Marilyn Koenig**, of Sacramento, Calif., is a co-founder and president of Friends for Survival, grief counselor and frequent speaker at conferences.
- **Larry Lewis**, of Brownstown Township, Mich., has led the Michigan Suicide Prevention Coalition for the past three years and is a SPAN USA Community Organizer.
- **Josephine Pesaresi**, of Scottsdale, Ariz., was the first consultant coordinator for the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition and is active in the Arizona State Suicide Prevention effort.
- **Janet Schnell**, of Huntingburg, Ind., is a board member of SPAN USA and a facilitator of the Dubois County Survivor Support group since 1998. She is active with the Question Persuade Refer Institute, a multidisciplinary training organization whose primary goal is to provide suicide prevention educational services, in her community. Schnell has trained about 2,000 people and is working on her bachelors in social work degree.
- **Ken & Madge Tullis**, of Memphis, Tenn., Ken, a survivor of seven suicide attempts and multiple addictions, is an award-winning psychiatrist specializing in suicide prevention, dual diagnosis and psychological trauma; Madge, a survivor of her husband's suicide attempts and addictions, is a member of SPAN USA's board of directors and co-founder of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network.

NOTE: To interview Jerry Reed or any of the award winners, please contact Melanie Fonder at (202) 715-1568 or melanie.fonder@dittus.com.

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SPAN USA is the nation's only suicide prevention organization dedicated to leveraging grassroots support among suicide survivors and others to advance public policies that prevent suicide. Since its founding nine years ago, SPAN USA has led the drive to make suicide a public health priority by building political will and calling for the development and implementation of a national strategy for suicide prevention. Using its extensive grassroots network of survivors and advocates, SPAN USA has actively promoted the cause on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures. For more information, please visit www.spanusa.org.

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