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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS

NAMED RECIPIENT

OF THE

GERALD R. FORD MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. The medal was presented by Jack Ford, Chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and son of former President Ford at the annual dinner of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation on June 1, 2009 at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, DC.

"In this, the third year, the medal will be presented in memory, as well as in recognition of the leadership attributes of President Ford. It is only fitting that the medal should be awarded to Justice Stevens, an extraordinary individual whose long career in public service has exemplified so many of the ideals championed by my father" said Jack Ford. "Our nation has benefited for many years from Justice Steven's distinguished service and unwavering commitment to the highest ideals of justice and integrity," said Ford.

The medal is given annually to an individual who has served the public good in the private or public sector and was established by the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation in 2003. Previous recipients have been Alan Greenspan, Richard Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, Betty Ford, the Men and Women of the United States Armed Forces, Carla A. Hills, Lee Hamilton, and James Baker.

Foundation Board Chairman Emeritus, Martin J. Allen, Jr., noted that "the criteria for the recipient are based on characteristics President Ford demonstrated in his public service. They include courage, strength of character, integrity, diligence and sound judgment, all of which have been characteristic of Justice Steven's remarkable public service."

Justice Stevens' service on the Supreme Court has been marked with intellectual consistency, respect for Court precedent, and as a tireless champion for the rule of law. In 2005, President Ford reflected on Justice Stevens' thirty years on the Court and of his respect and admiration for Justice Stevens. President Ford wrote:

Historians study the significant diplomatic, legislative, and economic events that occurred during a Presidential term to evaluate that Presidency... Let that not be the case for my Presidency. For I am prepared to allow history's judgment of my term in office to rest (if necessary, exclusively) on my nomination thirty years ago of John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court... He has served his nation well, at all times carrying out his judicial duties with dignity, intellect and without partisan political concerns.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation fosters increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of America's 38th President. It does so through activities designed to promote the high ideals of integrity, honesty, and candor that defined President Ford's extraordinary career of public service. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to public service and historical legacy of President Gerald R. Ford and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity wherever it exists in the public arena. It supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy; conferences; educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular, including at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.

EDITORS NOTE: For additional photo support, please contact Joe Calvaruso at 269-341-1483 and digital images will be made available.

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