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NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE PRESIDENT RECEIVES N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

RESTON, Virginia (April 10, 2001) — Arthur P. Klemm, Jr., President of the New Hampshire Senate, was presented today with the National Grocer's Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the State Government Forum Dinner Banquet of the New Hampshire Grocers Association in Concord, New Hampshire.

The award was presented by John Dumais, president, New Hampshire Grocers Association, to Klemm in honor of his involvement in community and civic affairs and in recognition of his active and effective participation in Government affairs to preserve and foster the principals of free enterprise, and as a strong and effective advocate for the independent food distribution industry.

Arthur Klemm was elected President of the Senate on December 6, 2000. Senator Klemm is a Republican serving his second term representing District 22, which encompasses Atkinson, Pelham, Salem, and Windham. He previously served five terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives from 1989 to 1998.

The N.G.A. Spirit of America Award, established in 1982, honors key industry and community figures who have provided leadership in the areas of community services and government relations on behalf of a free and independent food distribution system. Recipients of the award have included former Presidents Gerald Ford and George Bush; former Vice President Dan Quayle; former Speaker of the House, Tom Foley; Clinton Administration Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta; as well as other distinguished individuals serving the public interest.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers.