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KENTUCKY GROCERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN RECEIVES N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

RESTON, Virginia (July 14, 2001) – Joel Techau, CEO, Techau's, Inc. and chairman of the Kentucky Grocers Association, was presented today with the National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the Kentucky Grocers Association Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The award was presented by N.G.A. Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Tom Wenning, to Techau 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.

Techau began his grocery career as a carryout person during summers through high school, and upon graduation, he was trained in all departments of the family business' stores. He has served as vice president, president, and is currently CEO of Techau's, Inc. Techau also serves on the board of Junior Achievement and as a member of the Rotary Club and currently is chairman of the Kentucky Grocers Association. In addition, he and his family have been active in the local community's Cancer Relay for Life.

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 service and government relations on behalf of the independent retail/wholesale system. The award is N.G.A.'s way of saying thanks to those individuals who have worked to maintain a marketplace that is fair and competitive and free from excessive government intervention and regulation. 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.