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### **CAPITOL CENTRE FOODS OWNER RECEIVES N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD**

**ARLINGTON, Virginia (August 20, 2001)** — John Leemkuil, owner of Capitol Centre Foods in Madison, Wisconsin, was presented today with the National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the Wisconsin Grocers Association (WGA) Annual Convention/Summer Retreat and Safari, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

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

Leemkuil began his career in the grocery business in 1963 at the age of sixteen as a part-time bagger for A&P. He spent a few years working at a Madison, Wisconsin Sentry Foods before becoming an assistant manager for a Sentry Foods in Columbus, Wisconsin. In 1976, Leemkuil returned to Madison and purchased an IGA grocery store, which he opened as Capitol Centre Foods for business in 1983. The store is located near the UW-Madison campus and blocks from Wisconsin's State Capitol.

Leemkuil has supported countless campus organizations, due to Capitol Centre Foods' vicinity to the campus. He has also hired many physically and mentally disabled employees through Goodwill Industries and With A Little Help, Inc. In 1986, Capitol Centre Foods was named "Employer of the Year" by Goodwill Industries. Leemkuil is a lifetime member of the Eagles Club and served as President from 1984 to 1985. He and Capitol Centre Foods have been sponsors of little league and softball teams all over Madison for more than 15 years. Leemkuil is a member of the WGA and the WGA Legislative Council. He has always made time to help the association and his industry by representing them and lending a helping hand.

The N.G.A. Spirit of America Award, established in 1982, honors key industry and community figures that 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.