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DOC'S FOOD STORES PRESIDENT RECEIVES N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD

ARLINGTON, Virginia (October 23, 2001) – On October 17, 2001, Jim Brown, president and CEO of the family owned supermarkets, Doc's Food Stores, and member of the Oklahoma Grocers Association (OGA), was presented with the National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the Oklahoma Grocers Association's Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The award was presented by N.G.A. Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel, Tom Wenning, to Brown in honor of his involvement in community and civic affairs, in praise of his support of the Oklahoma Grocers Association, 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.

Brown began stocking groceries in the family business at the age of 12. His father started the family grocery business, Doc's Food Stores, in 1946 and it has remained in the community ever since. Brown moved his way up through the ranks to become produce and meat manager, store manager, vice president, and finally in 1983, owner and president. In 1997, he opened a second location in a nearby community.

Brown has served on the vocational education board for the local high school, the board of directors for the YMCA, the community endowment fund, and as vice president and president of his local chamber of commerce. He has previously been named the outstanding employer by the Distributive Education Clubs of America, as well as Optimist of the Year.

Brown served as OGA board chairman in 1997-1998. He has previously served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the OGA Education Foundation and currently serves as treasurer for the Oklahoma Food Industry Coupon Redemption Service. He serves on the N.G.A. Government Relations Leadership Council and has often attended the Public Affairs Assembly to meet with Oklahoma Representatives and Senators. Brown's support and encouragement for the OGA is unequalled.

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.