

**N.G.A. PRESENTS GEORGE H.W. BUSH WITH
CLARENCE G. ADAMY "GREAT AMERICAN" AWARD
AT ANNUAL CONVENTION**

ARLINGTON, Virginia (February 27, 2002) – On Monday, February 11, 2002, the National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) awarded 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush with its Clarence G. Adamy "Great American" Award at the N.G.A. Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bush was presented with the award prior to his speech at the Opening Keynote Session of the N.G.A. Convention.

Bush was honored with the distinguished award for his patriotism, service to his country, devotion to caring for his fellow Americans, and for leading this great country.

N.G.A. President and CEO, Thomas K. Zaucha, presented Bush with a plaque, which read, "A respectful husband, a proud father and grandfather, you are a man of absolute integrity, with uncompromising devotion to your family. Indeed, the apples did not fall far from the tree. We are proud to know you as a friend. We are honored to have lived in a period of history when George Herbert Walker Bush was our leader. You are a "Great American.""

In his speech, Bush shared his post presidential views on the press, American spirit, family, faith, and the confidence he has in the current Bush administration. Bush praised independent supermarkets for their good works in communities throughout the nation. He told attendees, "It's wonderful to salute family-owned businesses who do wonderful things in their communities."

On his 18th birthday Bush enlisted in the armed forces. He was the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings, he flew 58 combat missions during World War II. After graduating from Yale University, Bush began a career in the oil industry of West Texas. Bush soon became interested in public service and politics. He served two terms as a Representative to Congress from Texas. Twice he ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Then he was appointed to a series of high-level positions: Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Chief of the U. S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1988 Bush won the Republican nomination for President. Bush received unprecedented popularity for his military and diplomatic triumphs during his presidency. Among his greatest accomplishments were the defeat of the corrupt regime of General Manuel Noriega in Panama and when he rallied the United Nations, the U. S. people, and Congress and routed Iraq's million-man army in the land battle of Desert Storm.

The plaque given to Bush also stated, "A courageous leader, faced with the decision to send America's best into harm's way, your strong and steady resolve was a source of inspiration, motivation, and confidence that prompted all of us to stand up and proclaim, "We're proud to be an American." As Vice President and as President, you praised the inherent value and commitment the community-focused grocer provides in service to the American consumer. We are grateful for your support of small business."

The Clarence G. Adamy "Great American" Award is presented to an individual or a company which has exhibited outstanding leadership and made significant contributions in public affairs community relations and industry relations.

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.