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## **HANNAFORD MANAGER RECEIVES N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD**

**ARLINGTON, Virginia (March 13, 2002)** — On March 5, 2002, Dana Edwards, a Hannaford store manager, was presented the National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the New Hampshire Grocers Association's Government Day Program in Concord, New Hampshire.

The award was presented by N.G.A. Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel, Tom Wenning, to Edwards in honor of his involvement in community and civic affairs, in praise of his support of the New Hampshire Grocers Association (NHGA), 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 Granite State's food distribution industry.

Edwards' has devoted the past 33 years of his life to Hannaford Brothers Company, 28 of those years as store manager spanning such locations as Lincoln, Brewer, Boothbay Harbor and Rockland in Maine, to Plymouth and Keene in New Hampshire where he has managed the Keene stores for the past twelve years.

Edwards has been nominated for many awards including Hannaford's Store Manager of the year, which he won in 1997 and most recently in 2001. He is a proven leader, mentoring new store managers and helping associates grow and develop within the organization, many of them go on to management positions under Edwards' guidance.

In addition to his work with Hannaford, Edwards remains active in his community and supports different charities. In 2001, Edwards was elected to represent District nine of the General Court. He spent four years on the Keene, NH city council, served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and was very active as an Assistant Scout Master, as well as participated in numerous youth oriented programs including the Local Teen Center, and the Juvenile Youth Assessment Conference.

This year, Edwards was recently named Director of Retail Operations for Graves Family Supermarkets, one of Hannaford's top wholesale customers, where he will take over that post on April 1st.

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.

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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.

