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**SENATOR JON KYL RECEIVES
N.G.A. SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD**

ARLINGTON, Virginia (June 26, 2002) – On June 25, 2002, U.S. Senator Jon Kyl, from the state of Arizona, was presented with the National Grocers Association's (N.G.A.) Spirit of America Award at the 2002 Washington Conference and Grocers Care Celebration in Washington, DC.

N.G.A. President and CEO, Tom Zaucha presented Senator Kyl with the award in recognition of his distinguished public service in the United States Senate, his outstanding advocacy and commitment on behalf of small businesses, his commitment and leadership to achieve permanent estate tax repeal for family-owned businesses, and for his recognition that the grocery industry serves as a keystone in our free enterprise system.

Kyl, as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, is supporting and leading efforts to permanently repeal the death tax. In his keynote address to Washington Conference attendees at the Breakfast Session on Tuesday June 25, Kyl encouraged retailers to keep up the fight for permanent repeal. He feels that there could be a vote later in the year. Kyl said that if permanent repeal is not secured this year, it will be in the future. Upon presenting Kyl with the Spirit of America Award, Zaucha said, "On behalf of independent retailers and wholesalers, we commend you for your leadership and commitment to fight for permanent repeal of the death tax."

Republican Senator Kyl was elected to the U.S. Senate from Arizona in 1994 and re-elected in 2000, after having served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Kyl has distinguished himself as an effective voice for Arizona in Washington.

Kyl also serves on the Judiciary Committee as Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information and on the Finance Committee for Social Security and Family Policy, Health Care, and Long-term Growth and Debt Reduction. He serves on the post for Energy and Natural Resources of Water and Power, Forests and Public Lands Management, and Energy Research, Development, Production, and Regulation. Kyl also serves on the Intelligence Committee, he is a Deputy Senate Whip, Chairman of the Steering Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Committees.

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.

