



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2004

NATIONAL GROCERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARDS AT MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

On August 14, 2004 Thomas Wenning, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Grocers Association, presented Spirit of America Awards to Steve Wallace and Bill Lancaster. The Spirit of America award was initiated in 1982 to honor individuals who have provided leadership and distinction in the areas of community service and government relations on behalf of the independent retail and wholesale industry. "Steve Wallace and Bill Lancaster are two individuals that have demonstrated outstanding leadership on behalf of the industry, as well as been actively involved in community and public affairs," said Wenning. Past recipients of the award include Presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford.

Wallace grew up working in his parents' small grocery store in Alton, Missouri. After college he moved to Malden, Missouri to manage the family business, Country Mart, which now has eight locations. Wallace serves as the President of Country Mart and is on the Missouri Grocers Association Board of Directors, having served as Past President and Chairman. In addition to his retail success, Wallace is active in civic and charity organizations such as an officer on the boards of the Twin Rivers Regional Hospital and the Dunklin County Republican Committee.

Lancaster began his career in the grocery industry at the age of 15 and his expertise covers the areas of development, marketing, operations, labor negotiations and procurements. He recently retired as the Vice President of Corporate Sales at Associated Wholesale Grocers, is the author of the book, *Then and Now, 100 Years of Retailing*, and has been committed to helping retailers to 'Survive and Thrive.' Lancaster has also been inducted in to the Missouri Grocers Association's Grocers Hall of Fame in light of his years of dedicated service.

Inquiries for information concerning the Spirit of America Award and N.G.A. programs can be made by contacting Sarah Castleberry at 703-516-0700 or by visiting the N.G.A. website at www.NationalGrocers.org.

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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. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. 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, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: www.NationalGrocers.org.