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Press Release
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Laughlin Chamber of Commerce announces Judges Selection & Final Four Finalists for the 10th Annual Community Achievement Awards, Slated for June 9, 2007

Nine local residents and community leaders are taking part in one of the most difficult, and integral jobs necessary in the presentation of the Tenth Annual Community Achievement Awards – to select the top four nominees in fourteen categories from more than 70 nominations.

The awards program, presented by the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by First National Bank of Nevada, recognizes dozens of non-profits and public servants each year for their efforts directed at making the Colorado River communities a better place to live.

Larry Sinagoga, Donna Treague, Candy Basso, Tom Griffin, Olivia Krok, Lisa McCabe, John McCormick, Kathy Ochs and Nancy Silk Sinagoga have been assigned the very difficult task of filtering through all of the nominations submitted for this year and selecting only the “best” people, organizations and businesses in the region.

Larry Sinagoga has been a resident of the Tri-State area for approximately 17 years and has worked on numerous projects over the years for the betterment of our communities. Currently Larry serves as the chairman for the Bullhead City Planning and Zoning Commission of which he has been a member for twelve years. Larry is also the chairman of the Real Estate Committee for the Mohave Airport Authority and was active in negotiations to bring Home Depot, Sam’s Club and others to the airport property. He was instrumental in getting the Section 18 Sewer Plant developed and eventual service delivery to the Bullhead City. Larry worked to establish, construct and deliver the Bullhead Parkway to the City – a \$13 million, 9.2 mile, 4-lane roadway built with S.I.D. funds. Larry also is a member of the Technical Advisors Posse to Mohave County Sheriff Tom Sheahan and serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission for Mohave County. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Citizen of the Year award. Larry is supportive and active in many organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of the Colorado

River, Wildlife for Tomorrow – a fund raising non profit foundation enhancing the protection, management and enjoyment of Arizona wildlife.

Donna Treague is the branch manager for First National Bank of Nevada, El Mirage branch, located in Laughlin. Donna and her husband Rodney have lived in the Laughlin area for over nine years. Donna was the proud recipient of the 2006 Chamber Member of the Year Award. Donna actively supports community events and programs including Chamber functions as well as Laughlin Tourism Committee events. She is a board of director for the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and an active member of the Laughlin Rotary Club.

Candy Basso has lived in Bullhead City for 30 years. She has been employed in the gaming industry in Laughlin for 26 years with the last 18 years in Human Resource Management. Candy is currently the Director of Human Resources for Harrah's Laughlin. Candy was the recipient of the highest honor within Harrah's – The Chairman's Award in 1996 recognizing her work and community achievement in establishing Harrah's Helping Hands. Currently, she is a board member of the Laughlin Healthcare Coalition and River Cities Community Clinic for the tri state area. Prior, Candy served on the Colorado River Region United Way board for ten years.

Candy and her husband have four children and seven grandchildren, all residing in the community. She and her family enjoy all the recreational activities the Colorado River region has to offer.

Thomas E. "Tom" Griffin has been a presence in Bullhead City since 1985, as a land planner and project manager for Don Laughlin. Water issues have been an interest for many years. After relocating to Bullhead City, Tom continued his interest in water issues by becoming a board member on the City, County and State water boards. Tom is one of the few remaining "charter members" of the Laughlin Rotary Club and a current board member of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce. Tom is also a past recipient of the Citizen of the Year award.

Olivia M. Krok was the proud recipient of the 2004 CAA Civic Service Award. Olivia was the Community Services Officer for the Bullhead City Police Department for the past eight years, now retired. Olivia and her husband Stan made their home in Bullhead in 1998. She worked with various community activities to promote an understanding of crime prevention. Olivia coordinated the Neighborhood Watch Program, National Night Out, the annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo and developed PACT (Police and Citizens Together), and served the past years as representative for the BHC City Police Department. Olivia has a Bachelors of Science Degree and an Associate Arts Degree in Recreation Education and is certified in the field of social services. She is a member of the Women's Council and serves as Historian, the Colorado River Greenway Heritage Trails Association (AZ), serves as a Police Auxiliary Officer for BHC Police Department, and is an Arizona Site Steward volunteer for the Bureau of Land Management, and a member of the Archaeology Society – Mohave County Chapter. Olivia was also in the second graduating class of the Colorado River Leadership Program.

Lisa McCabe a long-time local resident has spent the last 20+ years marketing Laughlin and is currently the Vice President of Marketing for the all new Aquarius Casino Resort. She is currently responsible for the Advertising, Media, Database, Direct Mail, Players Club and Entertainment for the Aquarius. In addition to her "day job", Lisa is also the President of the Laughlin Tourism Committee and sits on the Boards of the United Way of the Colorado River and the Mohave County Airport Authority.

John McCormick – a resident since 1980 of Bullhead City, Mohave County – is well known for his work as a developer and real estate broker. McCormick is also known for his

community commitment through his community service and volunteer work. John currently serves on Boards and Commission, Bullhead City Water Advisory Board and Bullhead City Pest Abatement Committee. He volunteers as the Program Chair for the Bullhead City Rotary Club, is active in Los Matadors de Bullhead City, and is the Chairperson for the Boys and Girls Club's Annual Golf Classic tournament. John enjoys officiating high school football and was recognized by the Cox-Arizona Every Day Heroes program as one of the four finalist of the 2006 Sports Officials category. John is a past recipient of the CAA Humanitarian Award, Past President of the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce as well as Past President of the Rotary Club and Los Matadors.

John is married, has four children and six amazing grandchildren.

Kathy Ochs is the owner operator of eight brands at five Casino locations in Laughlin. The brands represented in Kathy's businesses include Pizza Hut Express, Seattle's Best Coffee, Cinnabon's and Baskin Robbins. Kathy hails originally from Fresno, California and has a ton of varied experience in restaurant operations from assisting with her family owned McDonald's franchises where she was trained in a full range of accounting practices by her mother who was a CPA and restaurant operations by her father.

Kathy is currently the chairman of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board and received a congressional appointment from Congressman Jon Porter as one of the top 300 CEO's in the United States of multimillion dollar corporations between the ages of 28 to 40. Kathy's company was also nominated in 2006 the Company Nomination Small Business of the Year.

Nancy Silk Sinagoga has lived in Bullhead City for the past twelve years. She has been an educator for 25 years and has served in both Bullhead City Elementary School District and Colorado River Union High School District as the Federal Projects Director, Assistant Superintendent and currently as Superintendent for the high school district.

Nancy has numerous ties to the community. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Colorado River and the Board of Trustees of Western Arizona Regional Medical Center. She currently serves as President of the Board of the newly formed River Cities Community Clinic and on the Board of Directors for Valley View Hospital.

When asked what she likes most about the area, she replies, "the spirit of involvement here. I love being part of a community that works to create a positive environment for all of its citizens."

The judges selected to take part in the 2007 Community Achievement Awards represent a cross section of the community. The group began choosing the top achievers in the first week of April.

All of the finalists are honored as the process unfolds. They will take part in a video production; receive professional photos, plaques, certificates and commemorative bottles of wine.

Final Four Finalists selected by category as follows:

Tourism:

Pat & Amy Phillips, Owners, Premier Travel & Caffé Delight; Sean Hammond, Vice President of Player Development, Aquarius Casino Resort; Jena Scheuneman Morga, Executive Director, Laughlin Tourism Committee

Educator of the Year:

Debbie Callner, Bennett Elementary School, Laughlin; Mrs. Harriet Rappleye, Young Scholars; Mike Jackson, River Valley High School, Bullhead City; LindaJoy Brown, Mohave High School, Bullhead City.

Educational Program:

Teen Maze, Judith Reed & Maria Pynakker; Graphic Arts Program, Gina Covert, River Valley High School; Meth SMART, Boys & Girls Club of Colorado River, Brian Velarde; Wrestling Program, Jim Daly, Mohave High School, Bullhead City.

Public Service:

Louise Zaborsky, Owner, Village Oaks Mortgage & Village Construction, Bullhead City; Sarah Morga, Director of Marketing & Business Development, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, Bullhead City; Nola Charles, President, Mohave Valley Association of Realtors, Bullhead City

Civic Service:

Pawan Agrawal, Public Works Director & City Engineer; City of Bullhead City; Karla Brady, Grant Administrator, City of Bullhead City; Pat People, Court, City of Bullhead City; Kolby Kreidel, Paramedic/Engineer/ Chaplain, Bullhead City Fire Department

Humanitarian:

Karen Morris, President & Founder, We Care Cancer Center, Bullhead City; Debbie Griesinger, General Manager, Preferred Outlets, Laughlin; Debbie Dauenhauer, Executive Director, Southern Nevada Transit Coalition, Laughlin; Cindy Wolff, Imaging Director, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center

Community Service:

Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408, Bullhead City; Oatman Outlaws, Oatman; Kiwanis Club, Laughlin; Rotary Club of Laughlin

Social Service Organization:

Boys & Girls Club of Colorado River, Brian Velarde; Silver Rider, Debbie Dauenhauer; Colorado Women's Council, Cindy Wolff; Mommie and Me, Cathy Stubblefield

Emergency Services Award:

Sergeant Rick Chastain, Bullhead City Police Department; Detective Mike Kruse, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; Joshua Livermore, Engineer/Paramedic, Bullhead City Fire Department

Communications/Public Relations:

Lance Ross, Community Relations Director, Valley View Medical Center, Fort Mohave; Emily Montague, News Director, TV2 KLBC, Laughlin; MJ Smith, Associate Editor, Desert Currents Magazine, Bullhead City; JJ Stevens, Commercial Productions Supervisor/Director, Cameron Broadcasting, Bullhead City

Citizen of the Year:

Kimberly Newman, Commissioner – Colorado River Pop Warner Football and Cheer & Arizona 9 District Administrator – Little League Baseball; Marilyn Meyer, Pastor - Laughlin Community Church & Enrolled Agent – Schafer Enterprises, Laughlin; Rick Southey, Fire Chief, Bullhead City Fire Department; Tony Dias, Commercial Development Manager, McCormick Realty, Bullhead City

Youth Citizen of the Year:

Jeffrey Adam Fermon, Senior, Laughlin High School; Bradley Stubblefield, Senior, Mohave High School; Sasha Anderson, Senior, River Valley High School; Matthew Anderson, Senior, Mohave High School.

Small Business of the Year:

Extreme Mini Rails - Brad Mays, Bullhead City; Advanced Quality Janitorial, Inc.- John Howard; Village Construction - Jim Zaborsky, Bullhead City; Professional Medical Specialties - Tom & Sharon Grace, Bullhead City

Large Business of the Year Award:

Valley View Medical Center, Fort Mohave; Colorado Belle, Laughlin

In May, the judges conduct 10-minute personal interviews with each of the finalists and the top achievers in each category will be named at the black tie gala set at the AVI Resort & Casino in Laughlin on June 9, 2007.

Tickets go on sale at the Chamber for the 500-seat event in May. It has sold out for eight years and has become the area's most prestigious event. For information, call 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245.

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