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Press Room

NEWS RELEASE

Angels of Mercy Program and Founders Marian Chirichella and Jay Edwards Receive Major Awards

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 20, 2008 – Co-founders of the Angels of Mercy program, Marian Chirichella and Jay Edwards, as well as the program itself, have been recognized for their military support efforts.

National American Legion Auxiliary President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan has announced that McLean, Va., Auxiliary Unit 270 President Marian T. Chirichella and the Angels of Mercy Program will receive the 2008 Public Spirit Award. Marian is also the co-founder of the Angels Program.

American Legion Auxiliary established Public Spirit Award in 1983 to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for contributions that positively impact our communities. Special emphasis is placed on those efforts and contributions that directly or indirectly benefit our military and veteran community and their families.

Prior winners of the award include Ronald Reagan, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Dr. Robert Schuller, Elizabeth and Zachary Fisher, Colin Powell, Alma Powell, and Madeleine K. Albright. "We are particularly proud to count you among those shining examples," President Pulvermacher-Ryan said in her letter to Chirichella. No American Legion Auxiliary member or program has previously received this award.

The award presentation will take place at the Awareness Assembly luncheon in Washington, D.C., on Monday, Mar. 31. The Awareness Assembly, formerly The Women's Forum on National Security, was established in 1980 to inform Auxiliary members about national and international issues pertaining to defense, security, women, and the aged.

The Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (www.sar.org/vassar) has awarded its Citizen of the Year Award to Jay Edwards, co-founder of the Angels of Mercy Program and commander, American Legion Post 270, McLean, Va. The award was made at the Commonwealth of Virginia Capital in Richmond on Feb. 16. Previously, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter SAR named Edwards its Citizen of the Year for 2007 and nominated him for the state award. Volunteer Fairfax [Virginia] named Edwards its 2007 Volunteer Leader of the Year.

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