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**CAA GROWS TO 36 MEMBERS WITH GARRETT INSURANCE**

**Austin, TX, August 19, 2008** - Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) today announced it has welcomed Garrett Insurance Agency, Inc. as its 36th member agency. CAA is a managing general agency (MGA) committed to strengthening the independent insurance agency system through profitable growth, quality and service for its member agencies.

"Garrett Insurance is located in a very desirable region that is highly profitable for our insurance carriers and has strong community ties as a multi-generational, family-run business," said Brent Borgstedte, CAA chairman and president of GBS Insurance Agency, Inc., Bellaire, TX. "We are thrilled to welcome such a well-respected agency as Garrett Insurance to CAA."

The Garrett Insurance Agency was established in Kerrville in 1918 by W. G. Garrett, Jr. and L. D. Garrett. Ninety years later, the agency is led by Robert L. Schmerbeck, III and Stephen R. Schmerbeck, CIC, third and fourth generation members of the Garrett family. With a long history of this family serving the Texas hill country, the agency provides personal and business insurance products for its residents. URL: [www.garrettinsurance.com](http://www.garrettinsurance.com)

"We were drawn to CAA primarily because this affiliation will allow us to maintain our independence, while being associated with thirty-five outstanding agencies across Texas," said Robert Schmerbeck, president of Garrett Insurance. "CAA is comprised of reputable agencies, and we look forward to sharing market information and expertise with each of them."

**About Combined Agents of America, LLC**

Founded in 1997 Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is based in Austin, Texas, and comprised of 36 independent insurance agencies located throughout the state. By funneling the agencies' combined premiums, CAA brings larger volume commitments to insurance companies, while empowering its members to enlarge their bottom line and realize greater benefits from insurance companies, vendor discounts, profit sharing and other incentives. In 2007, CAA generated over \$387,000,000 in combined property and casualty annual premiums, and works with 18 of the largest insurance companies in the nation. CAA is nationally ranked as the number one independent agency in the southwest region by many of the top rated insurance companies and ranked 18<sup>th</sup> of the "Top 100" independent agencies in the nation by the *Insurance Journal* in 2008. All CAA member agencies remain independent and are recognized by insurance companies as a key component to their future growth and goal commitments. Additional information is available at [www.combinedagents.com](http://www.combinedagents.com).

CAA member agencies include: Aars & Nelson Insurance Agency, Barnard Insurance Agency, Bartlett, Baggett & Shands, Benchmark Insurance Group, Benton-Luttrell-Brown Company, Bigham-Kliwer-Chapman-Watts Insurance Agency, Bill Russell Insurance Agency Inc., Bosworth & Associates, Bryan Insurance Agency Ltd., Brownrigg Insurance Agency Inc., Cravens-Warren & Co., Crockett Insurance Service, Duncan-Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency Inc., Ed Weeren Insurance Agency Inc., Evans-Ewan & Brady Insurance Agency Inc., First Insurance Services, Henry Norris Insurance Agency, Inc., Garrett Insurance Agency, Inc., GBS Insurance Agency Inc., Grona Boles and Martin Insurance Agency Inc., Insurance Associates of Texas, Insurance Net Inc., JHC Insurance Agency Inc., J. S. Edwards & Sherlock Insurance Agency, McCorkle Commercial Insurance Agency, Mims & Smith, Pierson-Fendley Insurance, Pinnacle Insurance Group Inc., Porter Insurance Agency Inc., Purifoy & Company, The Shropshire Agency Inc., Siegeler Insurance Agency, Inc., Walthall-Sachse & Pipes, Inc., The Weatherby-Eisenrich Inc., Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc., and Whorton Insurance Services.