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CAA Nationally Ranks 8th as a Personal Lines Leader Combined Agents of America Scores Record Number of Awards in 2008

Austin, TX, December 18, 2008 -- Combined Agents of America (CAA) nationally ranked 8th as a personal lines leader out of the “Top 100” independent agencies by *Insurance Journal*, November 2008. Additionally, CAA ranked 3rd behind other independent network or cluster groups included in this ranking of personal line leaders. Texas-based CAA is a managing general agency (MGA) committed to strengthening the independent insurance agency system across the country through profitable growth and exceptional service for its member agencies.

This recognition follows a record number of awards CAA received in 2008 including:

- CAA ranked 18th of the “Top 100” independent agencies in the nation by the *Insurance Journal*, 2008.
- CAA named one of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc 's ‘Top Personal Lines Sales Agents’ at its annual Personal Lines Summit in New York City
- Four CAA members retained status for 2008-09 as part of Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America (IIABA) “Best Practices” agencies.
- CAA is nationally ranked as the number one independent agency in the southwest region by many of the top-rated insurance companies.

“At CAA, we have made the quality of our members central to our focus on consumer wants and needs,” said Lloyd Eisenrich, CAA secretary and president of The Weatherby-Eisenrich Agency, Inc., Andrews, TX. “As the recent awards, member growth and premium growth illustrate, reporters, industry analysts, and most importantly customers are responding in the most positive way.”

About Combined Agents of America, LLC

Founded in 1997 Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is based in Austin, Texas, and comprised of 37 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. 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.

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, BRIA Insurance & Risk Consultants, 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., EFGI Insurance & Bonds, LLC, 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.