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CAA PRODUCER NAMED IIAT'S 2009 'YOUNG AGENT OF THE YEAR' AWARD

Mark Bridges, Edmond, Deaton & Stephens Agency, Amarillo,

\Wins IIAT André Juneau Young Agent of the Year Award

AUSTIN, Texas, June 9 -- Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) congratulates its producer Mark Bridges, Edmond, Deaton & Stephens Insurance Agency (Amarillo, TX), for being named the André P. Juneau Young Agent of the Year by the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) at its 112th Annual Conference & Trade Show. Edmond, Deaton & Stephens Agency is owned by CAA member agency Duncan, Fraser & Bridges (Pampa, TX). Mark is also the 6th CAA producer that has been distinguished with this prestigious award. With recent expansion into Oklahoma and Kansas, Texas-based CAA is a managing general agency (MGA) committed to further expansion across the country to strengthen the independent insurance agency system through profitable growth and exceptional service for its member agencies.

“In my 27 year membership with IIAT, I do not remember a ‘Young Agent of the Year’ more active in our industry than Mark,” said Roger Luttrell, CAA member and president of Benton-Luttrell-Brown Company. “Most impressively, it’s been my privilege to watch Mark dream, design and implement a young producer program for CAA. Creating a program that is supported by forty-one independent business owners requires imagination, courage and outstanding communication skills. Mark exhibits the qualities that make CAA so unique and successful.”

The IIAT’s ‘Young Agent of the Year’ annual award is bestowed upon a young producer that demonstrated service to the industry, his or her professional trade associations and community in an exceptional manner for a person of his/her age. Nominations are solicited each January, and announced during the IIAT’s annual conference.

The award was named after André P. Juneau, senior vice president of Nieman Hanks Puryear, a division of Frost Insurance Agency, Inc., Austin, and former president of the IIAT, whose career, family life and community involvement stand as brilliant examples of what a young agent can strive to be. He died early at the age 47 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Upon accepting the reward, Mark – a third generation insurance agent -- was able to pay special tribute to his late grandfather, Randall Bridges, who entered the insurance industry in the 1940s and spent his life working in it. Mark stated his father and he would not be in insurance if it were not for his grandfather’s profound influence.

Alongside this new IIAT award, Mark’s been a co-developer of CAA’s producer program that works to invest in young producers through an on-going lecture series and mentoring program.

Over 40 producers and many CAA members from member agencies convene on a bi-annual basis to knowledge share, swap ‘war stories’ and develop better agents. Heading into its fourth year, the producer program was developed by Mark and Bry Ewan – both sons of CAA members. Mark Bridges is the son of Bill Bridges, CIC, CAA’s chairman and the executive vice president of Duncan, Fraser & Bridges. Bry Ewan is the son of Ken Ewan, CAA member and president of Evans, Ewan & Brady Insurance Agency (Georgetown, TX).

Mark currently serves as the president of the Panhandle Independent Insurance Agents Association for 2009/2010. As a graduate of IIAT’s Producer Development School, Mark is also on track to complete the CIC designation this year. Mark received a master’s degree in Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a bachelor degree in Business Administration with a major in Insurance from Baylor University. Mark and his wife reside in Amarillo with their four children.

“We at CAA are thrilled that Mark Bridges has been selected as the IIAT’s ‘Young Agent of the Year’. From watching Mark co-steer our producers’ program from inception, we’ve known at CAA that he’d make us proud as an industry leader,” said Kevin Semtner, vice-president of CAA member agency Walthall, Sachse & Pipes, Inc. (San Antonio, TX).

CAA is also pleased to announce that Kevin recently became a principal partner at Walthall, Sachse & Pipes, Inc. in April.

About Combined Agents of America, LLC

Founded in 1997 Combined Agents of America, LLC (CAA) is based in Austin, Texas, and comprised of 41 independent insurance agencies located throughout Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. By funneling the agencies’ combined premiums, CAA brings larger volume commitments to insurance companies, while empowering its members to realize greater benefits from insurance companies, vendor discounts and other incentives.

CAA 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 18th 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.

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, Bridges Group Inc., Bosworth & Associates, Bryan Insurance Agency Ltd., Brownrigg Insurance Agency Inc., Cravens-Warren & Co., Crockett Insurance Service, Duncan-Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency Inc., Ed Berrong Insurance Agency, Ed Weeren Insurance Agency Inc., EFGI Insurance & Bonds LCC, 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, Mr. Insurance Agency, Inc., 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., Western Insurance Agency, and Whorton Insurance Services.

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