

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Governor Mike Huckabee Receives American Diabetes Association's Distinguished Service Award

— *Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee Presented with the C. Everett Koop Medal for Excellence in Health Promotion and Wellness* —

Alexandria, VA (November 20, 2006) – The American Diabetes Association (ADA), the nation's leading voluntary health organization in the fight against diabetes, announced today that Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, was awarded the Association's prestigious C. Everett Koop Medal for Excellence in Health Promotion and Wellness at the organization's Community Volunteer Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting on November 18, in Dallas, Texas.

The C. Everett Koop Medal for Excellence in Health Promotion and Wellness honors excellence in wellness promotion and disease prevention. Named for the former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Koop, the award is not limited to efforts in diabetes.

"On behalf of the American Diabetes Association, we are delighted to present this prestigious award to Governor Huckabee," commented Larry Deeb, MD, President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association. "His dedication to health care and the diabetes community directly support ADA's mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people living with diabetes."

Huckabee was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 2003. Two years later – and 110 pounds lighter – he completed the Little Rock Marathon, one of a total of four marathons that he has completed. The Governor's efforts to improve his own health has drawn national attention - *USA Track & Field* named the governor its Athlete of the Week for his performance.

Within the state, he became a beacon of hope and inspiration for those seeking a healthier lifestyle. Governor Huckabee has embraced this role, using his position and personal experience to drive public-private health partnerships geared especially toward reducing childhood obesity.

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National Office

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Diabetes Information

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
online www.diabetes.org
The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

The Mission of the American

Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

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Huckabee has been a strong supporter of critical health initiatives since taking office in 1996. He helped create the ARKids First program that now provides health insurance to tens of thousands of children who previously had no access to health insurance, and he led the Healthy Arkansas initiative to encourage Arkansans to stop smoking, exercise and eat healthier. Through the National Governors Association, this effort has been expanded as the Healthy America program.

Huckabee's fourth book, *Quit Digging Your Grave With a Knife and Fork*, chronicles his health experiences and insights, and has inspired many across the country to adopt healthier lifestyles. He has been featured in *Sports Illustrated*, *Runners World*, *People*, and numerous national publications.

Huckabee was named by *Time Magazine* as one of America's Top Five Governors, received the AARP IMPACT Award, and was selected by *Governing Magazine* as a "Public Official of the Year." He served as Chairman of the National Governors Association and currently serves as Co-Chair with former President Clinton in the Healthy Alliance, created to combat child obesity.

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the body's ability to produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone that allows blood sugar to enter the cells of the body and be used for energy. Nearly 21 million children and adults have diabetes. At least 54 million have pre-diabetes. Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the United States and it has no cure.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's premier voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. The Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. Founded in 1940, the Association provides services to hundreds of communities across the country. For more information please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or visit www.diabetes.org. Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

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