

## News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Stephen H. Smith Receives American Diabetes Association's Distinguished Service Award**

*— Stephen H. Smith Presented with Wendell Mayes, Jr., Medal for Outstanding Service in the Cause of Diabetes —*

**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 Stephen H. Smith, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, received the Association's prestigious Wendell Mayes, Jr., Medal for Outstanding Service in the Cause of Diabetes at the organization's Community Volunteer Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting on November 18, in Dallas, Texas.

The Wendell Mayes, Jr., Medal for Outstanding Service in the Cause of Diabetes is named for Mr. Mayes, a past chair of the board and longtime volunteer for the ADA. It is awarded to a non-health professional volunteer for outstanding service in the cause of diabetes.

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

Smith became involved with the ADA applying his entrepreneurial expertise to several areas of diabetes by becoming the co-founder of the Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina, a quasi-governmental consortium of public and private agencies providing a statewide comprehensive program of diabetes research, translation, and outreach.

Smith has served at every level of the ADA, and has chaired numerous committees and boards, including the Strategic Directions Task Force, Task Force on Children With Diabetes in Schools, Government Relations Committee, and the National Board of Directors.

*-more-*

**National Office**

1701 North Beauregard Street  
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Tel: 703-549-1500

**Diabetes Information**

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)  
online [www.diabetes.org](http://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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Steve was also a member of the federally-funded Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG) which developed a blueprint for diabetes funding at the National Institute for Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney disease (NIDDK) at the National Institutes of Health. While serving on DRWG, he testified before the Senate Appropriations sub-committee on Health in Washington DC.

Smith has authored “The Future of Advocacy,” which provided the framework for the Association’s current Advocacy structure. He has been a tremendous guiding force in ADA’s organizational evolution, a tireless warrior for research funding and healthcare coverage who not only provided testimony to Congressional committees, but also helped to secure passage of critical diabetes health insurance legislation in South Carolina.

Following his service as Chair of the National Board of Directors in 2001-02, Steve was awarded the Charles H. Best Medal for Distinguished Service. He currently is the Chair of the ADA’s Advocacy Leadership Council, directing a grassroots level with individuals who have personal influence or contacts with members of Congress and their staff.

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](http://www.diabetes.org). Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

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