

News Release

For Immediate Release

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**John W. Griffin, Jr., Esq., Receives American Diabetes Association's
Distinguished Service Award**
— *Griffin Presented with Addison B. Scoville, Jr., Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service*—

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 John W. Griffin, Jr., Esq., of Victoria, Texas, received the Association's prestigious Addison B. Scoville, Jr., Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the organization's Community Volunteer Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting on November 18, in Dallas, Texas. The Addison B. Scoville, Jr., Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service is named for Dr. Scoville, former president of the American Diabetes Association, and is given for outstanding service by a board or committee member.

Griffin is Chair of the Association's Legal Advocacy Subcommittee and has led efforts to fight diabetes-related discrimination at school, at work, at correctional institutions, and in a variety of public places. Griffin first became active with the ADA in 1991, when he turned to the Association for assistance in representing a young man who had been fired from his job because he had type 1 diabetes.

"On behalf of the American Diabetes Association, we are delighted to present this prestigious award to John Griffin," commented Larry Deeb, MD, President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association. "His untiring efforts to end discrimination against people with diabetes have been instrumental in furthering ADA's mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people living with diabetes."

Griffin has led a number of the Association's efforts to fight diabetes-related discrimination. In *Kapche v. City of San Antonio*, he took up the cause of a young man who was barred from joining the police force because he had type 1 diabetes. After seven years on the case, a Federal Appeals Court ruled that employers could no longer reject applicants based solely on a diagnosis of diabetes. The decision opened the door for countless others who had been turned away from jobs because they had diabetes. Griffin discovered he had type 2 diabetes while working on the Kapche case.

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National Office

1701 North Beauregard Street
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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.

News Release

Griffin – ADA Scoville Award, page 2

In the last year alone, Griffin has achieved several important victories for people with diabetes who want to hold law enforcement positions. In December, Griffin won a six-year battle with the Internal Revenue Service when a federal jury ruled Gary Branham had been unfairly turned down for a promotion to a law enforcement position because of his diabetes. As a result of Griffin's efforts in a case involving Gilberto Wise and the United States Marshals Service, the agency has implemented a fair nationwide system for evaluating people with diabetes who want to serve as court security officers. Griffin has also been instrumental in developing fair standards for assessment of people with diabetes who wish to serve as fire fighters and to drive commercial vehicles.

Griffin is a partner in the Victoria, Texas law firm of Marek, Griffin & Knaupp, L.L.P.

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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