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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Everett Area Chamber of Commerce Announces Award Recipients

Ray Stephanson named Henry M. Jackson Citizen of the Year

EVERETT – The Everett Area Chamber of Commerce has named City of Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson as its 2007 Henry M. Jackson Citizen of the Year. Others recognized by the Chamber with its annual Awards of Excellence include those whose efforts, leadership and contributions have made a positive impact on the Everett business environment, the Everett community and the Chamber.

The Henry M. Jackson Citizen of the Year award and the Chamber's Awards of Excellence will be presented at its Night of Stars 2007 Annual Dinner and Awards Gala Dec. 5 at the Edward D. Hanson Conference Center at the Everett Events Center.

"The Everett Chamber is fortunate to have so many community leaders whose contributions positively impact the business community and our entire region," said Everett Area Chamber of Commerce President Louise Stanton-Masten. "This year's recipients demonstrate the highest dedication to the mission of the Chamber and to community service. We salute them all."

The Chamber awards and their 2007 recipients include:

Ray Stephanson – Henry M. Jackson Citizen of the Year

An Everett native, Ray Stephanson has dedicated his time to improving the City of Everett both for the residents and the business community. His vision, leadership and dedication have led to outstanding improvements for Everett's economy and the well being of the city as a whole. Among the projects and programs that Stephanson is being recognized for are his efforts this past year to bring a University of Washington campus to the city of Everett. Additionally, he led a successful effort to keep Naval Station Everett within the city, and has supported major expansion at the Everett Mall, Everett Community College and the Providence Everett Medical Center. We truly commend his leadership as the mayor of the largest city in Snohomish County, and believe he is a well deserved recipient of this award, named in honor of Senator Henry M. Jackson. As a nomination for the mayor stated, "We all benefit from his tremendous efforts. Mayor Stephanson has led the City of Everett to new levels of stature, reputation and influence."

Gail Larson – Corporate Executive of the Year

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Washington Service Area of Providence Health & Services, Gail Larson's leadership has advanced the interests of the Everett area business environment and regional economy. Because of her leadership, people in the community have access to world-class healthcare. She oversees a team of over 3,000 healthcare professionals who meet the needs of people in the community through a variety of healthcare locations including Providence Everett Medical Center.



Other Awards of Excellence recipients include:

Small Business Executive of the Year: Dick Schlosser, the president of Electronic Business Machines, Inc. for his business leadership and initiative. He founded the company in 1981 and has managed its steady growth, including expanded product lines, increased staff size and expanded territory.

Service to Business Award: WSDOT, for their work on the Interstate 5 HOV Design-Build project in Everett. This project, including the very successful public-private partnership team, is an example of the positive impact that WSDOT work has on the business environment in our community and region.

Business Innovation Award: Steadfast Companies, for its contribution to the community in business development and innovation. Since Steadfast Companies purchased the Everett Mall in 2004 they have significantly revitalized not only the mall but the surrounding community with significantly expanded retail and future residential development.

Employer of the Year: Kirtley-Cole Associates LLC, for its excellence in management, mentoring and leadership, and for creating positive role models for employees. They set a high bar for employee performance and their employees consistently go that "extra mile" to make their projects excel.

Employee of the Year: The employees at the Snohomish County PUD, for their commitment to their customers, including the exceptional dedication shown to restoring power during last winter's snow and wind storms.

Dick Stephens Community Caring Award (two awards are being given):

Peter Harvey, Edward Jones Investments, for his deep spirit of community service including serving as board chair for the Museum of Snohomish County History.

Dave Wheeler, owner of Northwest Aviation Center, for his generous contributions to the community including being a member of Angel Flight, transporting medical patients via airplane.

Friend of the Chamber: Perteet Inc., for their continued support of the Chamber's higher education and regional transportation efforts. As a company, their staff continues to raise the bar when it comes to service to the Chamber and to the community.

President's Award: Todd Morrow, director of public affairs for Community Transit, for his unending dedication to the Chamber, including many years of service on the board of directors and as Chair of the Government Affairs Division.

Chairman's Award: Cathy Reines, chief executive officer of First Heritage Bank, for her commitment to the Chamber, including service on the board of directors and as a member of the Finance Committee.

Ambassador of the Year: Milt Heger, of Apollo Neon, for his commitment to the Chamber and its Ambassador mission to serve the businesses in the community. His attendance at meetings, events and outreach programs has been unmatched.

The Night of Stars 2007 Annual Dinner and Awards Gala begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Edwards D. Hanson Conference Center at the Everett Events Center. For more information, or to pre-register for this event please call the Chamber office at (425) 257-3222, visit www.everettchamber.com or e-mail info@everettchamber.com.