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For Immediate Release

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Consumer Federation of America Presents Annual Consumer Service Awards

Washington, D.C. - At its thirtieth annual Awards Dinner at the Capital Hilton on Wednesday, June 14th the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) will present service awards to some of the consumer community's most dedicated advocates. The recipients are:

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, PHILIP HART PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

During two decades in the House and Senate, Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) has been a consistent watchdog of the consumer interest. His accomplishments have spanned a wide range of issues, including reducing the resale market for stolen auto parts, improving credit card disclosure, and making it easier for low-income families to buy homes. Perhaps best known as a committed gun control advocate, he was instrumental in winning passage of bills requiring a waiting period to purchase handguns and outlawing 19 types of automatic weapons. As a member of the House Banking Committee in the late 1980s, he was among the strongest proponents of consumer protections in legislation to bail out and clean up the thrift industry. More recently, he has been a leader in opposing both the anti-consumer federal sugar program and harsh bankruptcy legislation that would deny a fresh start to thousands suffering financial misfortune. In recognition of his outstanding pro-consumer record -- including a lifetime CFA voting record of 90 percent -- CFA is honored to present Sen. Schumer with its Philip Hart Public Service Award.

MAXINE WATERS, PHILIP HART PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Throughout a decade of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Maxine Waters has been a passionate advocate for consumers, particularly women, children, people of color, and poor people. That commitment has been evident on a range of issues from civil justice to economic development, where she has been particularly effective in promoting practical programs to bring development to under-served areas. As a member of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, she has fought tirelessly to ensure that consumers, and particularly low income consumers, are not left out of the financial services marketplace, and she has been a national leader in efforts to require banks to provide no frills lifeline checking accounts, so that poor people are not forced to deal with high-cost check cashing outlets in order to participate in the economy. Her career CFA voting record of 91 percent has earned her recognition as a Lifetime Consumer Hero. An articulate and ardent voice for the voiceless, Rep. Waters is a fitting recipient of the Philip Hart Public Service Award.

ARTHUR LEVITT, PHILIP HART PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

As Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt has made that agency what its first chairman, William O. Douglas, envisioned it could be: "the investor's advocate." His commitment to investor protection is clearly reflected in the agency's priorities under his leadership: improving disclosure, cracking down on fraud and on abusive sales practices, reducing conflicts of interest in industry compensation practices, increasing the independence of accountants, and ensuring that investors are not disadvantaged as the markets transform to meet 21st Century challenges. Chairman Levitt has supplemented these pro-investor policies with aggressive campaigns to improve investors' ability to make informed investment decisions and to encourage increased savings for retirement. And he has given investors a voice in Commission policy, creating the Office of Investor Education and Assistance and the Consumer Affairs Advisory Council and encouraging investor comment on Commission policy decisions. CFA is pleased to recognize Arthur Levitt's dedicated work on behalf of investors with the Philip Hart Public Service Award.

ROBERT KRUGHOFF, ESTHER PETERSON CONSUMER SERVICE AWARD

For nearly three decades, Robert Krughoff has been one of the nation's foremost experts and leaders on consumer information. Following a stint as Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation Planning at the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, he founded the non-profit Center for the Study of Services in 1974. Since then, he has served as its President and CEO. The Center's two magazines, *Washington Consumers' CHECKBOOK* and *Bay Area Consumers' CHECKBOOK*, supply the only detailed rating of local consumer services. Plans are currently underway to expand this service to eight additional metropolitan areas. The Center also offers important consumer information services nationwide, including evaluations of hospitals, health plans, and new car deals. Its "CarBargains" program is a unique non-profit service that assists consumers in negotiating the purchase of new cars. Krughoff, who has served on many government and non-profit advisory groups, has received the National Press Club's First Place Award for Excellence in Consumer Journalism. CFA is pleased to present him with its highest consumer award, the Esther Peterson Consumer Service Award.

MARIAN BURROS, BETTY FURNESS CONSUMER MEDIA SERVICE AWARD

Author of a dozen no-nonsense cookbooks and the "Eating Well" column in *The New York Times*, Marian Burros is among the nation's most respected food reporters. In seven years as food editor of *The Washington Post* and 20 more as food writer and columnist for the *Times*, she has given consumers accurate, up-to-date information on food issues, covering stories ranging from the Reagan administration's attempt to classify ketchup as a vegetable to industry's recent court challenge to a new, science-based meat and poultry inspection system. She writes about issues other food reporters ignore, including the plight of families on food stamps and the fractured nature of food safety regulation in this country. She was among the first, for example, to write about such problems as *Campylobacter* in chicken and the link between antibiotic use on farms and increased antibiotic resistance in humans. Her nutrition reporting reflects her oft-stated belief that "the pleasures of food and healthful eating habits are not mutually exclusive." Marian Burros richly deserves CFA's Betty Furness Consumer Media Service Award.

CFA is a non-profit association of more than 250 groups, which, since 1968, has sought to advance the consumer interest through advocacy and education.