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Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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For Release: June 5, 2007

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CONNORS RECEIVES LEGISLATIVE AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

(OCEAN) – Senator Leonard Connors, Jr. (R-Ocean) recently was honored with a legislative services award presented to him by the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ) for his commitment to community safety and support of public employees throughout more than 25 years in the state Senate.

“Senator Leonard Connors’ tenure in the Legislature has spanned a generation. He has been a consummate gentleman and has used his wealth of knowledge to lead our state when it comes to community safety measures including the oversight of probationers,” said George Christie, president of PANJ.

During recent years, Connors has supported public policy initiatives important to PANJ, including transferring all probation functions out of the Judiciary; granting law enforcement powers to certain probation officers; making it a felony to throw bodily fluids at an officer; and considering it aggravated assault to assault a probation officer.

“I am extremely appreciative to be a recipient of this award. During my tenure in the State Legislature, the Probation Association of New Jersey has been among those organizations that I have respected and enjoyed working with to advance legislation and policy initiatives for the betterment of our state,” concluded Connors.

Connors’ recent legislative achievements include sponsoring a measure to require local government notification of sex offender registration and prohibiting sex offenders from living near schools, child care centers or playgrounds. Additionally, he sponsored a bill that would impose a mandatory term of life imprisonment without eligibility for parole on persons who commit brutal sexual assaults.

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“Senator Connors is an honorable legislator worthy of recognition based upon his exemplary record of service in the Legislature. We wish him well as he prepares to retire from the Senate knowing that he will continue to be an excellent public servant,” Christie added.

Connors became a member of the state Senate 25 years ago and is currently the sponsor of 177 pieces of legislation. Additionally, he is currently the Mayor of Surf City having held the post since 1966. He also served as an Ocean County Freeholder from 1977 to 1982. Connors’ was presented the Legislative award on May 30th, by Stuart Martinsen, PANJ legislative chairman.

Established in 1904, PANJ represents and protects the interests of more than 3,000 probation officers and supervisors from every corner of the state. The supervisors and probation officers work in 15 vicinages that cover New Jersey’s 21 counties. There are an estimated 130,000 adults and 20,000 juveniles under the supervision of probation officers who have average individual caseloads of 114 probationers.

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