

A National Organization of Insurance and Financial Advisers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pitney Bowes Inc. and American Ambulance Service, Inc. Receive First Annual Connecticut Business Ethics Awards Presented by Keynote Speaker, State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, on Behalf of the Society of Financial Service Professionals, Hartford Chapter

HARTFORD, CONN. – NOVEMBER 7, 2000; Pitney Bowes and American Ambulance Service, Inc. recently received the first annual Connecticut Business Ethics Awards (CTBEA) at a Celebration of Achievement Banquet in Southington. The awards were presented on behalf of the Society of Financial Service Professionals, Hartford Chapter, by Keynote Speaker, State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier.

Contact:

"Tonight we are celebrating two companies that exemplify ethical leadership in business," stated State Treasurer Nappier during her keynote address. "They are vital members of Connecticut society who are growing responsibly and steadily, realizing that they need to serve their stakeholders, such as the community and their employees, as well as their shareholders."

Pitney Bowes qualified in the public company category, in part, for its consistent commitment to social responsibility through community outreach efforts, economic development in Stamford's South End and its volunteer program, PB People: Building Stronger Communities.

John Walker, chief of corporate compliance & integrity affairs, accepted the award on behalf of Pitney Bowes. The Corporate Compliance Department is responsible for the company's business practice guidelines, which are based on ethical values and principles. Founded in 1920, Pitney Bowes is a \$4.4 billion global provider of informed mail and messaging management. The company was recently recognized by *Business Ethics* Magazine as one of America's most socially responsible public companies.

During his speech, Walker recognized Chairman and CEO Michael Critelli for his commitment to ethical business practices. Walker stated: "You cannot have an ethical office without an ethical leader."

American Ambulance Service qualified in the private company category for its more than two decades of innovation that includes designing and converting the first marine certified ambulance in Connecticut and being one of the first ambulatory services to purchase neonate incubate care units for critical newborns. American Ambulance also regularly provides equipment and services, often free of charge, to community fire departments, charitable organizations and residents who need transportation from nursing facilities to family functions.

Ron Aliano, CEO and president, accepted the award on behalf of his company, and recognized American Ambulance's entire team for their strong commitment to bringing all patients the best possible care available. Aliano has received many awards in his work with American Ambulance, including Congressional Citations in 1988 and 1997 and Citizen of the Year in 1988 from the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

American Ambulance Service, Inc. of Norwich, Connecticut, was founded in 1972 and provides ambulatory and emergency medical services to Connecticut communities.

The Connecticut Business Ethics award was established by the Hartford Chapter to honor Connecticut businesses that exemplify a strong commitment to civic and social responsibility, integrity and ethical conduct. This includes a demonstration of a firm commitment to ethical business practices in everyday operations, management, philosophies and responses to crises or challenges.

Connecticut recipients were selected by a group of independent judges, and will be submitted to the national competition that culminates with the selection of three national American Business Ethics Award recipients, sponsored by the National Society of Financial Service Professionals in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

The Hartford Chapter was founded in 1935, and is part of a national network of more than 200 chapters. The Society is committed to being a standard bearer for excellence in professionalism, advanced continuing education and ethical guidance for the nation's top financial advisers. The Hartford Chapter's 580 members,

who reside in the Greater Hartford and New Haven areas, hold the following recognized financial service credentials: CLU, ChFC, CFP®, CPA and licensed attorney. The Hartford Chapter is also a certified provider of Connecticut Insurance Department continuing education programs. To become a member or locate one in your community, contact the Hartford Chapter at 860-233-4735 or sfsphartford@erols.com.