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(Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce News Release)

Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce Announces Achievement Award 2001 Honorees:
Liv Arnesen, Ann Bancroft, Per Heidenreich

The NACC Achievement Award, the most distinguished award of the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, is to be presented to three individuals whose personal accomplishments exemplify the long tradition of Norwegian-American endeavor that sustains the superior level of business, social and cultural relations between our two countries.

In announcing this year's honorees - Liv Arnesen, Ann Bancroft, and Per Heidenreich, the NACC board cited an impressive list of achievements.

Liv Arnesen (Norway) and Ann Bancroft (USA) attracted worldwide media coverage earlier this year when they completed a 1,717 mile, 94-day trek across Antarctica to become the first women in history to cross the continent on skis. In classrooms, an estimated three million children followed the women's progress by satellite phone and internet connections.

Former school teachers, Liv and Ann have already announced their next endeavor. They are launching Bancroft Arnesen Explore, a set of programs dedicated to seeking out, promoting and celebrating women's and girls' achievements in exploration. Programs offered through the for-profit venture are designed to bring inspirational stories of exploration to the public through more expeditions by Liv and Ann, as well as organizational support, funding, promotion and Web resources for explorers worldwide. Both Ann and Liv are particularly excited that Bancroft Arnesen Explore provides tangible ways for them to use their adventures to energize classrooms and encourage kids to go after their dreams, no matter how different or how difficult they may seem. Bancroft Arnesen Explore will provide positive role models for young people, who will have the support they need to make powerful connections between the founders' journeys and messages for teamwork and leadership. In short, Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft aim to ensure that other explorers will benefit from the type of support they, themselves received.

Per Heidenreich, a highly regarded member of the Norwegian-American business community, and leader in the international maritime industry founded Heidenreich Marine Inc. (Heidmar) in 1984. Heidmar currently controls, from offices in Darien, CT, London and Singapore, a fleet of 48 tankers, operating in the Star Tankers Inc. revenue sharing pool. This pool, established in 1998, currently has 10 participants (five from Greece, three from the USA, one from Scandinavia, one from Singapore) and is continuing to grow. In January, 2001 the company started Dorado Tankers Inc. a clean Product Tanker Pool operating globally. This new Pool controls six tankers and is expected to grow rapidly. Heidmar is the general agent for Star Tankers Inc and Dorado Tankers Inc.

The very existence of these successful pools recognizes the dynamic maritime industry career, the reputation for business acumen and personal integrity for which Per Heidenreich is known, and the enormous regard in which he is held by the international maritime community. Per Heidenreich is a trustee of the Norwegian Seamen's Church and a director of the Norwegian-

American Chamber of Commerce. He actively and generously supports a number of business and civic organizations.

The awards presentation will take place on June 6 during the NACC Spring Ball, a popular annual event attended by chamber members and guests and others with ties to or interest in the Norwegian-American business community.