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For more information, please contact:

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FIRST FREEDOM AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

WHAT: **2006 First Freedom Awards Dinner & Presentation** – Invitation-only event honoring the 2006 First Freedom Award recipients. Media are invited to attend. Call the Council to confirm attendance for this event.

January 18, 2006
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Jefferson Hotel – Grand Ballroom

WHO: Sponsored by the Council for America's First Freedom, the 2006 First Freedom Award recipients are:

- **Václav Havel** (International Award) – Former president of both the Czech Republic and Czechoslovakia; Award-winning playwright; Passionate global champion of interfaith dialogue and freedom of conscience.
- **The Honorable Chet Edwards** (National Award) – Seven-term U.S. Representative from Waco, Texas; Ardent proponent of educating members of Congress and the American people that the principle of church–state separation was designed to protect religion, not harm it.
- **Dr. Robert S. Alley** (Virginia Award) – Professor emeritus of Humanities at the University of Richmond; Noted author; Scholarly authority on religion, government and education.

WHY: In observance of National Religious Freedom Day, held on January 16th each year, the Council for America's First Freedom honors individuals on the international, national and statewide levels for their efforts to advance freedom of conscience and basic human rights. National Religious Freedom Day commemorates the Virginia General Assembly's adoption of Thomas Jefferson's landmark Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on January 16, 1786, the first American document protecting the free practice of religion. It was this document that served as the basis for the religion clause in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment guaranteeing this freedom for all Americans. As these issues evolve and reinvent themselves in public life, the Council for America's First Freedom will continue to award those people who work tirelessly for religious freedom around the world. For more information, visit www.firstfreedom.org.