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**WALTER JOHNSON RECOGNIZED WITH
DISTINGUISHED "TRAILBLAZER" AWARD**

American Advertising Federation-Houston recognizes the founder of Amegy Bank of Texas

HOUSTON— November 14, 2008 – Walter Johnson, founder and chairman of Amegy Bank of Texas, was recently honored with the distinguished Trailblazer Award from the American Advertising Federation-Houston. Each year the Trailblazer Award is given to an outstanding Houston business professional who exemplifies the "Made in Houston" spirit and has built companies and organizations through effective communications and responsible corporate citizenship. Previous trailblazer award winners include Gordon Bethune (former CEO of Continental Airlines), Bob McNair (founder and owner of the Houston Texans and CEO of the McNair Group), George DeMontrond (President of DeMontrond Auto Group) and Drayton McLane (chairman of the McLane Group and owner of the Houston Astros).

"I am truly honored to be selected to join the ranks of many outstanding Texans who have received this notable award," said Johnson, who founded Amegy Bank of Texas in 1990. "I am very humbled to be recognized for a simple vision to help serve Texans by providing them with better banking services. The outpouring of this vision has been tremendous as the bank has grown to more than 85 branches and today serves as a cornerstone in our Houston, Dallas and San Antonio communities."

Johnson began his banking career at Factoring Services Inc. immediately after graduating from Texas Christian University in 1958. His career continued to flourish, and led to an 18-year tenure at Allied Bank and Texas, where he eventually served as President and CEO. After leading this bank to become Houston's 3rd largest financial institution with growth from \$100 million to \$5 billion in total assets, he left to start Southwest Bank of Texas in 1990, which was later renamed Amegy Bank of Texas in 2005. The bank originally began with one branch in Houston and has grown to have nearly 2,000 employees.

"It was our pleasure to present Mr. Walter Johnson with the 2008 American Advertising Federation – Houston Trailblazer Award," said Randy Jackson, chairman of the 2008 AAF-Houston Trailblazer Award Gala. "Mr. Johnson joins a list of honorees who exemplify the 'Made

in Houston' spirit, and who underscore the strong partnership between the advertising and business communities. “

In addition to the influence he has had in business, Johnson has dedicated much of his time to efforts within the community. He has chaired numerous capital campaigns for local and statewide organizations including the Star of Hope Family Shelter, the Minority Housing project, the Minority Small Business Financing Corporation, the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans and the Boy Scouts of America. Currently, he is serving as chairman of the Life Flight Campaign Cabinet, which is raising \$40 million to expand and update the Life Flight fleet.

For more information about the Trailblazer Award or the American Advertising Federation-Houston, please visit the website at www.aaf-houston.org. For more information about Amegy Bank of Texas, please visit the website at www.amegybank.com.

About Amegy Bank of Texas

Amegy Bank of Texas is one of the fastest growing banks in Texas. With assets of more than \$11 billion, local decision making and a history of relationship banking, Amegy has the resources to serve leading Texas companies as a source of capital as well as provide efficient and effective treasury management, international and investment services. The Bank, with more than 85 locations in the state, specializes in commercial banking as well as private financial management and trust services for families and individuals, and retail and mortgage banking services. Amegy is a part of the Zions Bancorporation (NASDAQ: ZION) collection of great banks.

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