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Grand Junction's Robert Stevens, MAI, SRA, Honored as Appraisal Institute's 'Volunteer of Distinction'

CHICAGO (Sept. 8, 2010) – Robert Stevens, MAI, SRA, of Grand Junction, Colo., was recognized today as the Appraisal Institute's September "Volunteer of Distinction" for Region II.

The Appraisal Institute is the nation's largest organization of real estate appraisers; Region II includes Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada. Stevens is a member of the Appraisal Institute's Colorado Chapter.

"Robert Stevens is an example of the outstanding individuals who belong to the Appraisal Institute," said Leslie P. Sellers, MAI, SRA, Appraisal Institute president. "We're proud of the contributions Robert and all our members make to our organization, to the real estate valuation profession and to the communities where they work and live."

Stevens has been a member of the Appraisal Institute for 34 years. His service to the Appraisal Institute includes serving as chair of AI's Communications and Public Affairs committees, and as a member of its Lum Library, National Relations and University Relations sub-committees. A Region II representative, he has served as president of the Colorado Chapter and as chair of its Admissions and Education committees.

Stevens has been involved in the real estate valuation profession for 37 years. His service to the profession includes developing and instructing real estate courses and appraisal certificate classes for the University of Colorado. He has mentored numerous trainee appraisers over the years and has completed the Appraisal Institute's certificate program in valuation of conservation easements. A certified general appraiser by the state of Colorado, he has been president of Stevens Real Estate Services since 1988.

In his community, Stevens has been a volunteer high school and all-star basketball coach for more than 20 years. He serves on the boards of two local churches and volunteers as a marriage mentor alongside his wife of 39 years, Rita. Together, Stevens and his wife operate and finance the La Brita Retreat

Center, a nonprofit facility specializing in services to churches, cancer patients and families of children with serious handicaps or illnesses.

Stevens, 60, joined one of AI's predecessor organizations in 1976 and earned his SRA designation in 1978 and his MAI designation in 1983. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal arts from John Brown University.

The Appraisal Institute is a global membership association of professional real estate appraisers, with more than 25,000 members and 91 chapters throughout the world. Its mission is to advance professionalism and ethics, global standards, methodologies, and practices through the professional development of property economics worldwide. Organized in 1932, the Appraisal Institute advocates equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the appraisal profession and conducts its activities in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. Members of the Appraisal Institute benefit from an array of professional education and advocacy programs, and may hold the prestigious MAI, SRPA and SRA designations. Learn more at www.appraisalinstitute.org.

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