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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **2008 Congressional Reception and Confluence Awards Recognizes Individuals Promoting Safe Boating**

**Washington, DC (May 13, 2008)** –The seventh annual National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) sponsored Congressional Reception brought together individuals across the country gathered together at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC to honor those in the field of boating education and safety at the 2008 Congressional Reception and Confluence Awards. The Confluence Awards are given to members of congress or other government officials who have aided in the bringing together of people, resources, and vision toward the betterment of safer boating. Through their positions of prestige and responsibility, these individuals have fought for important steps towards funding, legislation, programs, laws, and regulations for boating safety. This year, the award was given to two deserving individuals – Rep. Steve J. Israel and Rep. Mark V. Rosenker.

Steve J. Israel, New York Representative for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, was recognized this year at the Congressional Reception for pushing a bill supporting the Coast Guard and National Boating and Safety Education. Through his tireless efforts, the Coast Guard Authorization Bill was put into effect. Rep. Israel's efforts have stemmed from the unfortunate death of the young Brianna Lieneck who lost her life in a 2005 boating collision in the Great South Bay. "Brianna's Law," boating safety legislation Congressman Israel developed alongside family members of Brianna Lieneck, will require the Coast Guard to develop a plan to implement minimum education standards for recreational boat operators. Rep. Israel accepted the Confluence Award on behalf of Frank and Gina Lieneck, the parent's of Brianna.

Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board received the Confluence Award for the second time. This award recognizes Rep. Rosenker's leadership and support of the National Safe Boating Council's effort and vision. This is traditionally given only to Members of Congress, and Mr. Rosenker is one of the few representatives of the Executive Branch to be so honored. In addition, in September 2007, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators presented Chairman Rosenker with the NASBLA Award for his years of promoting boating safety.

Along with the two Confluence Awards, framed Gold Burgees were presented to other organizations attending the event. Representatives Israel and Rosenker were the first to receive the burgees, but the honor was also given to BoatU.S., the United States Boating Safety Division, accepted by CDR Rizzo, and NASBLA, accepted by President John Fetterman and Executive Director John Johnson.

The National Safe Boating Council was also recognized at the Congressional Reception. Rear Admiral Mary Landry, Director of Government and Public Affairs gave the National Safe Boating Council the United States Coast Guard Pillar of Support Award. The Council was also recognized for fifty years of service to boating safety and education. The Chairman of NASBLA also presented the NSBC with the Proclamation of the Council's Fiftieth Anniversary.

The National Safe Boating Council is a (501)c3 non-profit organization that is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC is comprised of over 330 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.