



Jewelers of America press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jewelers Of America Celebrates 100th Anniversary With Affiliates

Jewelers of America and seven affiliate associations celebrate centennials in 2006

New York, NY – Jewelers of America recently celebrated its 100th anniversary along with seven of its regional affiliates with an awards ceremony and reception held during the JANYS Summer Show in New York City.

"Marking 100 years in business is a great – and rare – achievement," says JA President and CEO Matthew Runci. "Jewelers of America is proud to share this milestone with so many of our state affiliates, as we have been working together to assist and educate retail jewelers across the country for a century."

To celebrate the centennial milestone, Runci presented commemorative plaques to the presidents and vice presidents of the seven affiliates at JA's 2006 Affiliate Leadership Conference, held July 29. The associations honored were: Iowa Jewelers Association; Kansas Jewelers Association; Missouri Jewelers and Watchmakers Association; Nebraska/South Dakota Jewelers Association; Oklahoma Jewelers Association; Pennsylvania Jewelers Association; and Wisconsin Jewelers Association.

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The associations were founded in 1906 with the purpose of promoting the welfare and interests of professionals in the retail jewelry business. They join the Virginia Jewelers Association and the Minnesota/North Dakota Jewelers Association as JA affiliates that have reached 100.

In addition to the recognition from JA, several affiliates will hold regional celebrations this fall to mark their anniversaries. The Pennsylvania Jewelers Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary September 9-10 in Harrisburg, PA, with a special dinner on Saturday. The Oklahoma Jewelers Association and Kansas Jewelers Association will celebrate at their 100th Convention & Leadership Conferences, September 15-17 and September 29-October 1, respectively. During its annual convention in Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Jewelers Association is hosting an anniversary banquet on Saturday, September 23, with a special program highlighting the history of Iowa jewelers. Other associations celebrated earlier this year.

Jewelers of America is among the oldest associations of retail jewelers in the United States. It was formed when two trade groups – American Retail Jewelers Association and National Retail Jewelers Association – came together to create the American National Retail Jewelers Association (ANRJA) in Rochester, NY. ANRJA merged with the National Association of Credit Jewelers in 1957, to become the Retail Jewelers of America. Later, it changed its name again to Jewelers of America. Today, JA represents nearly 11,000 member stores and has 42 affiliate associations nationwide.

“It is an honor that, for 100 years, consumers have entrusted JA member jewelers with their fine jewelry purchases, and in doing so, relied on them to contribute to many beautiful memories and celebrations,” says Runci. “As Jewelers of America moves into its next century, we look forward to continuing to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, so that jewelers may continue to earn that trust.”

For more information about Jewelers of America, visit www.jewelers.org. For a high-resolution image, email lthompson@jewelers.org.

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Jewelers of America is the national trade association for retail jewelers. With nearly 11,000 member stores, JA also works locally through its 42 state and regional affiliates. JA advocates high social, ethical, and environmental standards, promotes professional business and leadership skills, and enhances its members' profitability by offering education, certification, marketing and cost-saving programs.

Jewelers Of America Celebrates 100th Anniversary With Affiliates



At JA's recent Affiliate Leadership Conference, President and CEO Matthew Runci presented commemorative plaques to seven state and regional affiliates who are marking their 100th anniversaries in 2006. Here, representatives of these affiliates show off their trophies. The associations honored are: Iowa Jewelers Association; Kansas Jewelers Association; Missouri Jewelers and Watchmakers Association; Nebraska/South Dakota Jewelers Association; Oklahoma Jewelers Association; Pennsylvania Jewelers Association; and Wisconsin Jewelers Association.

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