



news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
330-677-4549 or dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ralph Regula is NewsNight Akron's 2008 Newsmaker of the Year

KENT — Jan. 12, 2009 — Retired congressman Ralph Regula was named 2008 Akron Newsmaker of the Year by panelists of the Western Reserve PBS series **NewsNight Akron**. The award recognizes the greater Akron individual who had the most significant news impact during the past year. Regula retired in December following 36 years of service to his constituencies in Ashland, Medina, Stark and Wayne counties.

The **NewsNight Akron** panel made the decision after discussing nominees during the show's 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 broadcast. Panelists for the show were host Eric Mansfield, Akron-Canton news anchor for WKYC-TV3; freelance journalist Jody Miller; Steve Hoffman, editorial writer at the Akron Beacon Journal; and Larry States, news reporter at WAKR/WONE/ WQMX. The program is available for viewing as video on demand on the Western Reserve PBS Web site at www.WesternReservePBS.org.

Other top nominees considered for the award were Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and Summit County Executive Russell Pry. Regula joins previous Newsmaker of the Year awardees Luis Proenza (2007), Sylvester Small (2006), Melinda Elkins (2005), Connie Humble (2004), Plusquellic (2003) and Dan Dahl and Rev. Curtis Thomas (2002 — tie).

Panelist Jody Miller said that after some discussion, Regula was the unanimous choice for the honor because of his "lifetime of service to the community." During his 36 years as U.S. representative, he was instrumental in channeling federal funds into northeast Ohio to benefit colleges and universities, hospitals, parks and manufacturers. He also was praised for his civility as a representative and for his accessibility to his constituents.

-more-



About NewsNight Akron

NewsNight Akron, which is recorded at Western Reserve PBS's Production Hub in downtown Akron, is in its 11th season on Western Reserve PBS. It airs on Fridays at 9 p.m. and repeats on Saturdays at 5 a.m. The program offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Eric Mansfield, WKYC-TV3 evening news coanchor, **NewsNight Akron** features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the Akron Beacon Journal; freelance journalist Jody Miller; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastzremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

##