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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **2009 Congressional Reception and Confluence Awards Honors Congressmen** *Individual Boating Safety Efforts Receive Special Recognition*

**Washington, DC (May 13, 2009)** – The eighth annual Congressional Reception, hosted by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG), was held on May 12, 2009 on Capitol Hill. The reception is held each year to officially present the Boating Safety 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. These individuals, through their positions of prestige and responsibility, have fought for important steps towards funding, laws, legislation, programs, and regulations for boating safety. This year, the award was given to nine individuals in recognition of their efforts. Howard Coble (NC), William Delahunt (MA), Michael McCaul (TX) received Confluence Awards as well as Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Steven LaTourette (OH), Candice Miller (MI), Senator Bill Nelson (FL), James Oberstar (MN), and Gene Taylor (MS).

Howard Coble, North Carolina Representative for the 6<sup>th</sup> District, is a two-time recipient of this prestigious award, also receiving the Confluence Award in 2003. Congressman Coble has been an advocate of safer boating, immersing himself in committees, including the U.S. Coast Guard Subcommittee, to address imperative boating issues. This year, he sponsored the National Safe Boating Council to have their reception in the Rayburn Gold Room. His efforts and devotion to boating safety have marked him as a true supporter and instigator in the government realm.

Bill Delahunt, Representative for the 10<sup>th</sup> District of Massachusetts, was nominated by Captain George Agganis for this year's Confluence Award. Representative Delahunt's vocal support of the *Water Resources Development Act* in 2007 was the key to overriding presidential veto that would have further limited dredging opportunities important to safe public access and marine business operations. In 2008, Bill Delahunt played an important role on the Committee charged with reviewing the *Clean Boat Act of 2008*. The passage of the act was critical to the immediate and future business environment of the recreational marine traders throughout the United States. As co-chair of the bipartisan Coast Guard Caucus, Representative Delahunt is a leader in marine related issues and continues to do his part in boating safety.

US Representative Michael McCaul of Texas, is a true advocate of boating safety. Nominated by Major Alfonso Campos and James Vonwolske, Representative McCaul's commitment to boating safety begins with his position on the Congressional Boating

Caucus. Under Rep. McCaul's role on the Homeland Security subcommittee, he is influential in funding for boating law enforcement. He is involved in boating safety funding under the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund, and has supported a new law concerning an improved navigation lighting system. Representative McCaul, as a recipient of the 2009 Confluence Awards, is the essence of what this award represents.

Six representatives - Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Steven LaTourette (OH), Candice Miller (MI), Senator Bill Nelson (FL), James Oberstar (MN), and Gene Taylor (MS), were nominated by BoatU.S. Foundation for their work on the Clean Boating Act of 2008. This act was brought forth to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel. This act now is an important piece of legislature that helps to protect our waterways, boating, and boating safety. The representatives involved in bringing this act to Congress are critical components in the continued work towards boating safety.

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.