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NCFCA to Induct Five Adoption Heroes into Adoption Hall of Fame

*Louisiana Foster Parents of 100 Children, South African Attorneys
and U.S. Senator to be Honored on April 16, 2008*

March 20, 2008 – Alexandria, Virginia – Five adoption heroes and heroines will be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame by the National Council For Adoption (NCFCA) at its 28th Anniversary Awards Celebration on April 16, 2008 at The Birchmere in Alexandria, Virginia. The annual gala will feature music by **Rodney Atkins**, NCFCA's National Adoption Spokesperson and the 2007 Academy of Country Music's "Top New Male Vocalist."

This year's inductees include **Warren and Mary Alice Babineaux**, who nurtured and raised biological, adopted, and more than 100 foster children in their Louisiana home. **Debbie Wybrow and Brad Oliver**, a husband-and-wife legal team from Johannesburg, South Africa, will be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame for their tireless efforts before South Africa's highest court, where they argued and won a landmark pro-adoption decision. **Senator Norm Coleman** (R-MN) will also be inducted into the Adoption Hall of Fame for his tremendous and passionate dedication to adoption and foster care issues in the United States Senate.

"We are particularly proud of this year's inductees," said NCFCA president and CEO Tom Atwood. "Each individual's selfless acts and advocacy for adoption made a significant difference in the lives of untold thousands of children worldwide, and we are very excited to honor them at this special event."

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Senior Tax Officer for Wal-Mart and biological daughter of Warren and Mary Alice Babineaux, will share her personal experience growing up in the Louisiana home that welcomed more than 100 foster children. **Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)** will present the award to Mr. and Mrs. Babineaux. Rodney Atkins, who was adopted as an infant, will also share his own touching adoption story as well as treat the crowd to a country music set featuring his number one hits.

NCFCA's annual Adoption Hall of Fame Awards Celebration has enabled the adoption research and advocacy organization to honor those individuals who have made a positive difference for adoption. Past awardees include First Ladies Barbara Bush and Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Gerald Ford, Secretary Tommy Thompson, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, Senators Ben Nelson, Jim DeMint, and Mary Landrieu, Representatives Dave Camp, William Delahunt, and Thomas Bliley, Mona Charen, Scott Hamilton, Greg Louganis, Peter and Kitty Carruthers, and Dave Thomas.

With a “down home” country theme, guests are invited to wear their blue jeans, boots and cowboy hats (business attire also welcome). The event reception will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by the official induction ceremony and musical entertainment beginning at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$75 per person and may be purchased online at NCFA’s Web site, www.adoptioncouncil.org or by contacting Lauren Ridenour at (703) 299-6633 or lridenour@adoptioncouncil.org.

About Rodney Atkins: Rodney Atkins is NCFA’s National Adoption Spokesperson and winner of the 2007 Academy of Country Music’s “Top New Male Vocalist” Award. Recently, he tied a seven-year country music industry record by having four single hits from a single CD reach the top spot on the musical charts. He is also nominated for six 2008 Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards: Top Male Vocalist, Album of the Year (as an artist and producer), Song of the Year “Watching You” (as an artist and as a writer), and Video of the Year “Watching You.”

About NCFA: Since 1980, NCFA has been a leading voice among national adoption and child welfare organizations. NCFA is a research, education, and advocacy nonprofit that provides adoption information, promotes ethical adoption practices, informs public policy and opinion about adoption issues, and serves as a resource for women with unplanned pregnancies, adopted persons and their families, those seeking to adopt, and adoption professionals.

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