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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Editors: *States include:* Alaska, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

SIXTEEN LAUREATES TO BE INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

Sixteen individuals will be inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on Friday, October 7, at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md. Each will be honored for his or her lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H. The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents or 4-H National Headquarters/NIFA, USDA based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame Class of 2016 Laureates recognized for excellence in citizenship, leadership, character and career accomplishments include: Estella (Stella) Almeida, New Jersey; Janet C. Burns Athanas, Alaska; Shirley R. Bond, Florida; Dr. James L. (Jim) Byford, Tennessee; L. Ann Domsch, Kansas; Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Illinois; Dr. Stanley J. Lamendola, Louisiana; Dr. Eddie L. Locklear, National 4-H Council (resides in North Carolina); John L. Loyd, West Virginia; Dr. Steve Mullen, NIFA/4-H National Headquarters (resides in Louisiana); Dr. Linda Gould Nierman, Indiana; Marvin Olinsky, Ohio; Nancy Hottle Scheerbaum, Pennsylvania; Dr. Wendy J. Stivers, Kentucky; William Viar, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (resides in Indiana); and Dr. Kathleen (Kathi) E. Vos, Wisconsin.

Each Laureate was selected for the National 4-H Hall of Fame because of his or her significant contribution to 4-H, the nation's premier youth development organization that serves over 6 million youth nationwide. National 4-H Hall of Fame laureates are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, or 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - USDA based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

"We are proud to honor and recognize the outstanding individuals who are the Class of 2016 Laureates for the National 4-H Hall of Fame. These individuals have touched the lives of many people, from 4-H staff and colleagues to thousands of 4-H volunteers and members throughout the nation," said Jeannette Rea Keywood, chair of the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

The honorees will be presented with a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque and memory book during the ceremony. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in partnership with National 4-H Council and 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. The purpose of the National 4-H Hall of Fame is to recognize and celebrate those people who have made a significant impact on 4-H and its millions of members for more than 100 years. For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame event and past recipients, visit <http://www.nae4ha.com/hof>

About the National 4-H Hall of Fame

In 2002, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA), National 4-H Council and National 4-H Headquarters at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA created the National 4-H Hall of Fame during 4-H's centennial year. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established to recognize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major impacts within the 4-H movement at the local, state and national levels. Biographies and more information about inductees can be found on the National 4-H Hall of Fame website at <http://www.nae4ha.com/hof>.

About the 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, serving more than 6 million young people across America annually with research-based programs in leadership, citizenship, communication and life skills. For over 100 years, 4-H has connected the science, engineering and technology innovations of land-grant universities to local youth and families. 4-H National Headquarters at NIFA provides programmatic leadership for the 4-H Youth Development Program. 4-H programs are offered in every county in the United States. For more information about 4-H, visit the national 4-H website at <http://www.4-h.org>