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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 18, 2017

The Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association Announces 2017 Awards Recipients

Afton, VA – During the Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association’s (Unified VCA or UVCA) Fall Convention and Annual Meeting, September 15-17 at the Sheraton Oceanfront Virginia Beach, the UVCA presented the following leadership awards.

Raymond S. Solano, DC, CCSP

Phillip Connolly, DC, DACAN

Carly S. Swift, DC

Nelson Marquina, DC, PhD, USA Laser Biotech, Inc.

N. Ray Tuck, Jr., DC

John Stoke Award

District Director of the Year

Presidential Merit Award

Presidential Merit Award

Chiropractor of the Year

Raymond S. Solano, DC, CCSP received the 2017 John Stoke Award, which recognizes DCs who have published or produced something for lay consumption. Dr. Solano from Falls Church, Virginia has reached millions with his pro-chiropractic message through TV, Radio, and Print. He has been one of FOX 5’s Health contributors for five years and done well over 100 health segments on health related topics including backpack safety, finding the right pair of running shoes, and safety in the snow. He has made appearances on NBC 4, ABC 7, and News Channel 8 in DC, discussing the latest trends in physical health and sports medicine. He has been featured as an expert in The Washington Post, Washingtonian Magazine, ESPN 980, and 106.7 The Fan. Many local businesses, schools, and athletic teams have engaged Dr. Solano to present health talks on a range of topics including workplace ergonomics, injury prevention, and wellness.

Phillip Connolly, DC, DACAN was named District Director of the Year for his successful efforts to increase the sense of community in Northern Virginia. Dr. Connolly owns and runs Spine Care of Alexandria and has practiced in Northern Virginia since 1991. He is a graduate of NYCC and has a diplomate in neurology. On his web site, Dr. Connolly mentions that “chiropractic healing is all about wellness and communicative care.” This excellence in communications and commitment to strengthening the profession is inherent in everything he does as district director of UVCA district 2-East. He spearheaded his district’s participation in this year’s inaugural UVCA School Supplies Drive. He has worked with organizations like the Virginia Spine Institute, Anabolic Laboratories, Insight Imaging and Brainspan to put together meaningful district meetings.

Carly S. Swift, DC received a Presidential Merit Award for her hard work as the Chair of the UVCA Public Relations Committee and Director of UVCA’s District V-East. Even though she has only been in practice since 2013, she has volunteered many hours of her time to help chiropractic in Virginia since day 1. She attended her first UVCA strategy meeting when she had been in practice for barely a month. She coordinates the UVCA’s annual Silent Auctions, managed this year’s inaugural statewide school supplies drive, masterminded Virginia Beach spine parades, and has put together numerous district meetings to keep doctors in her area up to date.

Nelson Marquina, DC, PhD, founder and chief technology officer of USA Laser Biotech, Inc., also received a Presidential Merit Award. Dr. Marquina’s company, USA Laser Biotech, has been a Supporting Supplier Member for over 15 years. Dr. Marquina conducts seminars and research presentations in laser phototherapy and photobiology in North America, Asia and South America. Yet despite a challenging business and travel schedule, Dr. Marquina still finds time to support the UVCA in many important ways, far beyond his valued participation as a dues-paying member. He has conducted seminars and convention sessions for the UVCA on both laser therapy and Spanish in the chiropractic office. He provides photographic coverage of the conventions at no charge to the association. He and his wife and colleague, Dr. Sherron Marquina, provided their conference facility to the association at no charge earlier this year for our rad tech program and even spent time on a Saturday to open it up for us, so we did not have high meeting costs that we had to pass along to the students. His company regularly exhibits at UVCA conventions and sponsors extra convention functions.

Dr. Ray Tuck was named the Unified VCA's 2017 Chiropractor of the Year. For nearly two decades, Dr. Tuck has been helping patients across the New River and Roanoke Valleys with chiropractic. During that time, he grew from a sole practice to now having nine clinics, led by twelve doctors and an even larger support team.

Dr. Tuck's leadership within healthcare is clear. Dr. Tuck was just re-appointed by the Governor to serve as the chiropractic representative on the Virginia Board of Medicine and was elected that board's Vice President. He serves on the Board of Governors for the American Chiropractic Association and is a Board Member of the Virginia C-PAC. Dr. Tuck is a past president of the Virginia Chiropractic Association and received its Chiropractor of the Year award in 2003.

Dr. Tuck states, "I'm glad to have the acknowledgement that what I'm doing is of value of others to rise to the level of receiving this award." He notes that "In today's healthcare system, most of the things I do are about how we can bring chiropractic to very key tables to improve healthcare with other practitioners. In today's world, healthcare is about a team approach."

Chiropractor of the Year nominations are submitted to a committee comprised of the previous three recipients of this top Unified VCA award. For this year, that committee consisted of Dr. Tom Wetzen, Dr. Will Sonak, and Dr. Joe Foley.

Dr. David Dolberg, Unified VCA President, notes, "non-profit associations such as the Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association depend heavily on volunteerism to realize their mission. This year's award recipients are perfect examples of what a difference individuals can have on the health and strength of chiropractic in Virginia – and beyond."

For photos and/or additional details, call Ms. Julie K. Connolly, Executive Director, at 540-932-3100, or email her at jconnolly@virginiachiropractic.org.

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