

For Release
Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Contact: David E. Freet
717-238-8311
E-mail: dave.freet@patel.org

Telecom Executive Receives Major Statewide Recognition Posthumously

Award celebrates distinguished service to consumers and telephone industry

Hershey, Pa. (June 20, 2006) - Today, the Pennsylvania Telephone Association (PTA) will honor the late John S. Rocker, of Yukon, PA, for his outstanding contributions to the telecommunications industry, the Association, and the customers he served. Rocker was a vice-president for Yukon-Waltz Telephone Company based in Yukon, PA.

His wife, Connie, will receive the award at a ceremony following PTA's annual banquet this evening. The awards ceremony is part of PTA's 104th annual conference being held June 18-21 at The Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA.

Rocker was a telephone industry leader, a lifetime member of the Yukon Volunteer Fireman's Association and a former stock car owner and racer.

Rocker is survived by his wife Connie, and their four children, Melissa, Mara, John Michael, and Dan. Also surviving are John's mother, Ethel and sister, Carol Sue, who reside in Yukon, PA.

Serving 20 consecutive terms on the PTA's board of directors, Rocker distinguished himself as a leader who could accelerate issues and diffuse tense discussions. During the past decade, he assisted PTA with securing sports figures and other high profile individuals to headline Tel-PAC breakfasts. Golf was his other passion, and this year the PTA renamed its Annual Golf Scramble to honor Rocker and encouraged players to wear orange, his favorite color.

According to PTA President David Freet, "This prestigious award recognizes an outstanding individual's service to the telecommunications industry, his contributions to

- MORE -

the economic development of his region and his service to local telecommunications company consumers and his friendship to his colleagues. During his lifetime, John provided countless hours of service to our association. His leadership and commitment to PTA, through participation on the board, had an impact on legislative issues and technological contributions benefiting every citizen in Pennsylvania. He is one of the reasons that Yukon-Waltz remains a successful local telecom today.”

Distinguished service awards were inaugurated in 2002, during the Association’s 100th anniversary year, to honor those pioneers who have helped pave the way to make PTA and the telecommunications industry in Pennsylvania a critical component of the state’s infrastructure.

###

PTA represents the 37 local telephone exchange providers that serve nearly 8 million business and residential lines throughout the Commonwealth. Born under a different name in the early 1900’s and today based in Harrisburg, PTA has provided Pennsylvania’s smallest and largest telephone companies with a clear voice for more than a century. Committed to the future of telecommunications, the PTA serves as an informational clearinghouse for its members, as an advocate with state regulators and legislators and as a watchdog of consumer protection. For more information about PTA, visit www.patel.org.

Waltz-Yukon Telephone Company is a local exchange carrier serving approximately 950 access lines in Westmoreland County