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**ALL RHODE ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE AND
ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN J.F.K. ESSAY CONTEST**

Deadline for entries is Saturday, January 6, 2007

SMITHFIELD, RI – December 13, 2006 – The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDOE), Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) and Fidelity Investments® strongly encourage Rhode Island’s public, private and home-schooled high school students to participate in the 2007 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest while there’s still time. Students and teachers can access contest guidelines, download a DVD, view previous winning essays, register or even submit their entries online by visiting *Profile in Courage Award* program at: <http://www.jfklibrary.org>.

The annual contest, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and supported by Fidelity Investments, invites Rhode Island high school students to write a compelling essay about the meaning of political courage. In less than 1,000 words, students must demonstrate an understanding of a political issue at the local, state or national level and an elected official in the United States who is acting or has acted courageously to address that issue.

Named for President Kennedy’s 1957 Pulitzer prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage* recounts the stories of eight American statesmen, the obstacles they faced and the special valor they demonstrated despite the risks.

"Our youngest citizens will soon participate and determine the future of this country," said Congressman Patrick K. Kennedy, nephew of John F. Kennedy. "The goal of this contest is to get them thinking about issues that matter most to them personally. And one of the best ways to do that is by having them identify others who have stood by their convictions, especially our elected officials who represent the interests of many."

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Students with U.S. citizenship attending public, private, parochial, home schools, overseas schools or who are enrolled in a high school correspondence program in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories, are eligible to participate.

“This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about the civic courageousness demonstrated by our elected officials,” said RI Commissioner of Education Peter McWalters. “It also gives them a chance to expand their knowledge of the political process and, hopefully, it will inspire them to become more active within their own communities or schools.”

The first place essay winner will receive a \$3,000 cash prize and will be invited to accept the award at the Profile in Courage Award ceremony held at the Kennedy Presidential Library in May. The winner's nominating teacher will also be invited to the ceremony in Boston and will receive a \$500 grant to encourage student leadership and civic engagement. A second place winner will receive \$1,000 and up to five finalists will each receive \$500.

“We are extremely proud to continue our support for this contest, which we believe is a wonderful means to encourage student interest in our country's leadership and civic engagement,” said John Muggeridge, general manager of Fidelity in Smithfield. “It is our hope that increased participation will introduce and perhaps inspire more students to a life-long commitment of civic participation.”

“The essay contest fittingly honors President Kennedy, who believed deeply in the power of the individual and the promise of our nation's young people,” said John Shattuck, CEO of the Kennedy Library Foundation. “It is gratifying to see how readily students today can identify and understand acts of political courage and their importance in our democratic society.”

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The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that provides financial support, staffing and creative resources for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Kennedy Library Foundation and the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum seek to promote, through educational and community programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history, and culture, the process of governing and the importance of public service.

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest is a companion activity to the Kennedy Library Foundation's annual Profile in Courage Award, which honors elected officials who have demonstrated exceptional political courage. The essay deadline is **Saturday, January 6, 2007**.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of more than \$2.7 trillion, including managed assets of over \$1.3 trillion as of September 30, 2006. Fidelity offers investment management, retirement planning, brokerage, and human resources and benefits outsourcing services to more than 22 million individuals and institutions as well as through 5,500 financial intermediary firms. The firm is the largest mutual fund company in the United States, the No. 1 provider of workplace retirement savings plans, one of the largest mutual fund supermarkets and a leading online brokerage firm. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.Fidelity.com.

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